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[Editorial Report]

Israel

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's assertion that Israel may eventually have to negotiate with the PLO is an idea that meets none of the conditions sought by Israel, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens stated in an interview with Jerusalem television. Baker's statement does not advance peace or assure Israel's security interests, he said, and agreement cannot be reached on this idea between the United States and Israel.

Reporting on Israeli assessments of U.S. intentions, HA'ARETZ said that senior defense sources expect the United States will demand "more practical proposals" from Israel and will exert "mounting" pressure.

As for the security situation, IDF radio noted that two Palestinian teenagers were wounded and captured after an unsuccessful grenade attack on an IDF camp near Rafah. They had crossed from the Canada refugee camp on the Egyptian side of the border. Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the IDF Southern Command, told Tel Aviv educational television that the "terrorists" were trained and sent by the Islamic Jihad, though they have disclosed that the mission was also known to the PLO leadership. Mordekhay praised Egypt for cooperating with Israel in efforts to capture those who assisted the squad.

In another development in the south, the Israeli authorities have strengthened border police units in the Gaza Strip and made them responsible for day-to-day security in the area, according to Jerusalem television. The IDF will retain the ultimate authority in Gaza, the report said, but it hopes the widespread use of border policemen will curtail violence because they are feared by local residents.

On the issue of Israeli settlements, HA'ARETZ reported that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin have reached an understanding whereby all eight settlements mentioned in the coalition agreement will be established this year. However, Finance Minister Shim'on Peres is opposed to establishing new settlements at this time, the paper added.

PLO

Commentaries broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio rejected U.S. proposals to end the intifadah (uprising), stressing that it will continue until the establishment of a Palestinian state and national independence. The radio also broadcast Call No 36 by the intifadah leadership, which outlined a program of further action between 17-29 March. The Call viewed Israel's increased use of border guards in the territories as an attempt to pull together its "collapsing forces" and to avoid the protests of soldiers who are fearful and critical of being deployed in the territories.

At the ICO conference in Riyadh, PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi criticized U.S. "procrastination" in the dialogue with the PLO, and he urged Islamic states to increase their support for the intifadah, Baghdad Voice of the PLO noted.

Lebanon

Voice of Lebanon radio reported further hostilities 16 March, with artillery shells landing on Beirut Port. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon had earlier warned that an escalation of the fighting is still possible, citing reports that Syria has reinforced its units in Lebanon with two armored brigades and other heavy weapons. The Syrians closed the Lebanese-Syrian border to civilian vehicles in order to facilitate the passage of military vehicles and supplies into Lebanon, the radio said.

Meanwhile, General Michel 'Awn issued an order of the day to his forces in which he affirmed that the "war for the liberation of Lebanon" has begun, the Voice of Lebanon noted. For Syria's part, a Damascus radio commentary described 'Awn as a "tool" of Israel, which "has an interest in exploding the situation and in torpedoing the Arab efforts aimed at finding a solution."

In Riyadh, the Arab good offices committee on Lebanon appealed to all sides involved in the conflict to immediately stop the shelling, SPA noted. The Kuwaiti foreign minister, the chairman of the committee, asked Syria to do its utmost to put an end to the fighting and to "spare the blood of the Lebanese brothers," according to KUNA.

Kuwait

The authorities have decided to prosecute 33 men on charges which include plotting to overthrow the state, divulging military secrets, and belonging to outlawed groups, KUNA reported. The defendants include 18 Kuwaitis, 9 Iraqis, and a Briton of Lebanese origin.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin fighters overran a key government position at Jalalabad airport in an offensive launched the night of 15 March and are advancing toward the terminal building, according to resistance sources cited by AFP. Islamabad radio had earlier reported fierce fighting around Jalalabad, noting that Afghan Air Force planes were increasing their bombardment of mujahidin positions in an attempt to prevent the rebels advancing.

A military statement carried by BAKHTAR claimed that the forces attacking Jalalabad sustained "heavy losses" in their unsuccessful attempt to capture the city 6-14 March. A related Kabul radio report contended that 560 "Pakistani invaders and armed groups connected with them" were killed in the attacks, adding that the dead included four Americans.

Commenting on the situation in remarks broadcast by Moscow radio, Soviet Foreign Ministry official Gennadiy Gerasimov maintained that the "joint Pakistani-mujahidin" offensive against Jalalabad is being led by a brigadier in Pakistan's military intelligence service. Gerasimov also warned the United States that Stinger missiles suppled to the Afghan rebels may turn up in the hands of terrorist organizations in the Near and Middle East and be used against U.S. targets.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Committee on Lebanon Meets in Riyadh

LD1403231889 Kuwait KUNA in English 1711 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Riyadh, March 14 (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti-led Arab League committee of six, seeking a peaceful settlement of the Lebanese crisis, has met on the sidelines of the conference of Islamic foreign ministers here, League Secretary General Chedli Klibi said Tuesday.

The committee sat last night under Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and reviewed latest developments on the Lebanese scene and how the committee could help calm the explosive situation there, Klibi added. The committee groups the foreign ministers of Kuwait, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Tunisia, Sudan and Klibi.

The AL [Arab League] chief executive said Shaykh Sabah briefed the panel on his meeting in Damascus last week with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Klibi expressed sorrow at the sudden setback in the security situation in Beirut, and called on the warring parties to silence their guns. He stressed that the panel is committed to keeping up contacts in the coming weeks, including a March 26 (?meeting in Tunis) ahead of a session of the Arab League Ministerial Council. Klibi added that at the March 26th meeting, the committee would draft a report on the outcome of its contacts with heads of Lebanon's rival governments and religious leaders, for submission to the League Ministerial Council. The committee would also (?map out) the second phase of its work plan, Klibi concluded.

Ministerial Committee Meets

LD1503124589 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1140 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Riyadh, 15 Mar (SPA)—The Arab Ministerial Committee for Contacts and Good Offices on Lebanon held an emergency meeting at 9:30 am today chaired by Shaykh Sabah Al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and chairman of the committee. The meeting was devoted to discussing the grave situation in Lebanon. After the meeting, Shaykh Al-Sabah issued the following appeal:

"The recent painful development witnessed in Lebanon due to the explosion of the security situation and the exchange of shelling which resulted in a large number of casualties, is a source of deep concern for members of the six-man committee, especially as this is taking place while the committee is trying to find a solution to the Lebanese crisis that could achieve the unity and sovereignty of Lebanon and prosperity for its people.

"After investigation of these developments in its emergency session today, Wednesday 15 March, in Riyadh, the committee stresses that the success of its mission depends on the extent of cooperation from all sides. Therefore, and from a starting point of fraternity and responsibility, the committee appeals to the brothers in Lebanon—especially the sides involved in recent events—to immediately stop the shelling and any action which could add to the tension of the security situation. The committee appeals to the brothers to direct all efforts towards finding a solution to the crisis—on the basis of the Arab League resolutions—in order to achieve peace, security, and prosperity for the Lebanese People."

Shaykh Sabah Appeals for Peace

LD1503150389 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1424 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Riyadh, 15 Mar (KUNA)—The chairman of the six-man Arab Ministerial Committee for Contacts and Good Offices on Lebanon, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, telephoned the Syrian vice president, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, this morning.

Shaykh Sabah told the Syrian vice president about the deep concern of the committee members over the grave developments in Lebanon. He asked him to ensure that Syria does its utmost to spare the blood of the Lebanese brothers and to end the fighting and shelling.

The chairman of the committee, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, also telephoned both the acting Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, and head of the military government, General Michel 'Awn, and asked them to help secure a cease-fire in Lebanon and establish some control so that the committee can resume efforts to help Lebanon end its crisis.

The committee held an emergency meeting this morning under the chairmanship of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad. The meeting was attended by the foreign ministers of the member Arab countries on the sidelines of the meetings of the ICO foreign ministers.

The meeting was devoted to studying the grave situation in Lebanon.

Islamic Affairs

Delegates Speeches at ICO Riyadh Conference

Egypt's Al-Sharif

NC1403125889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1019 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 14 Mar (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, head of the Egyptian delegation to the meetings of the 18th conference of the Islamic foreign ministers, has stressed that Egypt considers Arab Jerusalem as part of the Arab territory occupied in 1967 and Israel must withdraw from it within the framework of a complete withdrawal from all these territories. He noted that President Mubarak always raises these points as primary issues in his talks with various world leaders in order to emphasize the status of Jerusalem and reject Israel's decision to annex it and make it its capital.

In his speech today before the ICO conference, Al-Sharif called on the Islamic nation to pool its resources and take advantage of the changes and developments in the international arena; to take a joint stand based on enlightened initiative and movement; to consider realities of the modern age; and to seek peace with a united will and strong determination. He said that Egypt has warned those who imagine that the passage of time will turn the status quo into an acceptable situation and those who forget that people's rights will not be forefeited in time. He said that Egypt believes peace is an indivisible whole and is based on justice.

Reviewing developments in the Palestinian issue, Al-Sharif stressed that this issue has witnessed substantial and positive developments represented in the Palestine National Council [PNC] resolutions passed at the session in Algiers, and the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territory, which has entered its 2d year in rejection of the injustice of the status quo. He emphasized Egypt's conviction that recent positive developments and favorable regional and international climates may pave the way for an effective international conference on peace under UN auspices. The conference would be attended by the five permanent states of the Security Council, along with all parties to the conflict—including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people—on an equal footing. The PLO is supported by the vast majority of states that would attend an international conference in order to achieve a peaceful settlement in the region.

On the Iran-Iraq conflict, Al-Sharif noted that it is entering a new stage aimed at reaching a peaceful settlement through serious negotiations. He called on both parties to seize this opportunity to achieve a comprehensive peace as a strategic goal and to (?relegate) secondary points of disagreement.

On the Lebanon situation, Al-Sharif emphasized Egypt's concern over Lebanon's unity and territorial integrity. He called on the ICO to reassert that all foreign parties must take their hands off Lebanon and to exhort all peace-loving forces to work so that Lebanon may once again be a homeland of peace and coexistence. He appealed on behalf of Egypt to all brothers in Lebanon, regardless of their creeds and positions, to place their people's interests and Lebanon's unity and security above any other consideration.

Al-Sharif praised the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan and expressed Egypt's hope that peace will prevail in that Islamic country and that the Afghan refugees will return home to participate with their brother mujahidin in building and reconstruction under a government that represents them and expresses the success of their struggle and identity. He said: It honors us and pleases us that this government is taking its seat at the ICO meetings. [passage omitted]

Al-Sharif noted the attempts to slander Islam and the prophet, which one shudders to hear or read. He stressed the Muslim people's rejection of these attempts. He said that the information strategy discussed and endorsed by the Islamic Information Ministers Council in Jeddah last October constitutes a decisive stand by the Muslims in their confrontation of these athiest attempts and the enemies of Islam. He pointed out that the implementatuion of this strategy will achieve this response in an effective and coordinated way on the informational and cultural levels that is in line with the spirit of the age. [passage omitted]

Pakistan's Yaqub Khan

BK1503022089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] At the Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference in Riyadh, Pakistan has affirmed that the transfer of power to a broad-based interim government in Afghanistan, acceptable to the Afghan people, is an indispensable condition for restoration of peace in that country and voluntary return of the Afghan refugees. Addressing the conference this afternoon, the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, referred to the formation of an interim government of Afghanistan. Pakistan has noted the fact that the cabinet of the interim government has left a number of seats vacant for representatives of those Afghan mujahidin parties which are based in Tehran, and for Muslims living in Kabul who have no [words indistinct] responsible of crimes against the Afghan people. Accordingly, Pakistan has welcomed the establishment of the interim government as a major step toward a comprehensive settlement of the Afghan problem.

The foreign minister called upon the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] to assist in peaceful and expeditious transfer of power by inviting the interim government to occupy the seat of Afghanistan [at the ICO] which has been vacant since January 1980 due to the military intervention in that country.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan declared Pakistan's resolute support to the Arab and Palestine cause. He said an international peace conference on the Middle East, with the participation of all parties, including the PLO, on an equal footing, could go a long way in resolving the crisis. The foreign minister also called for cooperation among Muslim countries for their collective socioeconomic development. He reaffirmed Pakistan's stand against apartheid and declared firm support to the Namibian people's struggle for independence.

PLO's Qaddumi on U.S. 'Bias'

JN1503213389 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1918 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] The PLO yesterday called on Islamic states to increase support for the Palestinian popular intifadah [uprising] in the occupied Palestinian territories in order to guarantee the continuation of the intifadah and of our Palestinian people's steadfastness until they achieve their hopes and aspirations in the establishment of their independent state on their national soil. This came in a speech delivered by Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, before the Islamic foreign ministers conference currently held in Riyadh.

Brother Abu al-Lutf said that the intifadah has created a situation which cannot be ignored. It has also shaken the Israeli entity and proven itself as an aggressive regime that wants a settlement. He criticized the U.S. stand and accused it of procrastination in its talks with the PLO.

Brother Abu al-Lutf said that the U.S. Government does not deal with the essence of the issue and its main components, and displays a flagrant bias toward Israel and its expansionist policy. He added that the West European states did not take stands to support the Palestine question.

15 Mar 'Closed Session' Ends

LD1503143389 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1358 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Riyadh, 15 Mar (SPA)—The 18th ICO foreign ministers conference concluded its closed session at 3 p.m. today under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs and chairman of the conference. It followed an open session this morning.

During this session, the conference heard a number of speeches by heads of delegations. The foreign ministers will resume their meetings later this evening to discuss the reports of the conference's subcommittees.

Palestinian Affairs

Tunisia To Host PLO-U.S. Meeting on 21 Mar

LD1503232389 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Premier Hedi Baccouche and Hasan Bal'awi, PLO representative in Tunisia, were present.

Following the meeting, Mr Yasir 'Arafat made the following statement:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] At this pleasant and fraternal meeting, I had positive and constructive talks on (?various issues) that cropped up, including the (?progress) of the blessed uprising, (?its continuation) despite all (?the opression, tyranny, and high-handedness) and despite the use of actions [word indistinct] against our people. The uprising will continue and escalate, God willing, until the end of Israeli occupation of our Palestinian soil.

I explained to the president the details of the Palestinian (?struggle) and the political movement, including the fact that Tunisia is to host the second official meeting between the Palestinian and U.S. delegation on the 22d of this month, God willing. I thanked his excellency the president for hosting and sponsoring this meeting once again, for the sake of pushing forward the chariot of peace and the steps of peace, God willing.

At the same time, I explained to the president (?in some detail) the tour I made recently in Arab countries and Asia and other meetings that we will be holding in the near future, God willing. I thanked the president for the [word indistinct] fraternal and constructive stand of the Tunisian president, government, and people alongside their Palestinian mujahidin and for the continuous care heroic Tunisia and its heroic people are giving to the Palestinian people and their true (?jihad). [end recording]

U.S. Calls To Stop 'Uprising' Rejected

JN1503191889 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1731 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers: If the main concern of the U.S. Administration, which is—according to Golda Me'ir—Israel's god, is to stop the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] as soon as possible, we will at once say to the U.S. Administration: Yes, we also want the intifadah to stop, but at what point and on what basis?

We have a sound answer. The Palestinian intifadah will stop at the gate of national independence and when this independence is achieved in the free, independent State of Palestine and on the basis of the international legitimacy resolutions as we declared in the Palestine National Council. The practical translation of this will be attained through the convening of an international conference for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Consequently, if the U.S. Administration strongly urges calming the deteriorating situation in the occupied territory, as it puts it, it should—out of its known position—hurry to prepare the appropriate atmosphere for the convening of an international conference that is supported by the world and all parties to the Middle East conflict, with the exception of the Israeli enemy. And the U.S. Administration is biased toward the Israeli enemy in this stand, placing itself in a circle of ambiguity, uproar, and blackout.

The U.S. Administration's calls or proposals that aim only at stopping the brave Palestinian intifadah at the expense of its national legitimate objective and in the interest of the Israeli enemy are rejected part and parcel.

The Palestinian people do not want their pains to continue. And the Palestinian people do not enjoy their sons' bloodshed. The people hope that peace will be achieved tomorrow, but what peace? Yes, what peace is this? Everybody knows full well the answer. The Palestinian people led by their sole, legitimate representative, the PLO, are trying to reach an answer to this question. They are trying to reach the answer with every determination, not by turning away as a result of the atrocities of the Zionist monster, which is equipped with America's weapons, and not by being obstructed by time.

To he who seeks political participation in ending the sufferings of the Palestinian people, the door to Palestinian peace is open—and its address is the PLO. The road to this door is very clear. Our Palestinian people will reject anything else, relying on the Palestinian spirit, truth, and rights that are on the rise in the world in defiance of Zionism and its masters.

'Official Source' on Al-Quds Radio 'Deception'

JN1503211089 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1918 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Undated statement by a PLO "official source"]

[Text] The radio station called Al-Quds radio, which transmits from Syrian territory, continues its attempt to spread insinuations and lies in order to confuse the ranks of our people, the people of the blessed intifadah [uprising] inside our occupied territory. The PLO wants to reaffirm that this suspect radio belongs to the Syrian intelligence organs. It was blessed by Rabin, the killer of children, who recently ordered that the jamming of it be lifted. Neither Palestine nor the PLO has anything to do with it. Naming itself after Jerusalem [Al-Quds] is a slogan of deception and a banner under which it conceals its subservience and the identity of the organs that supervise it.

Al-Quds on Israeli 'Jamming'

JN1603125089 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1128 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] Brother strugglers, our kinfolk in Palestine: Recently, the Zionist enemy intensified its jamming against your broadcasting station, Al-Quds, the Palestinian Arab radio on the road to liberating land and man. The enemy heightened the intensity of the whistle it uses to jam our transmission from a far distance. It also raised the power of the jamming devices against our medium-wave frequency, 702 khz.

Brother strugglers, our kinfolk in Palestine and the diaspora: This measure against your radio is nothing new. Since the 1st month of our transmission, the enemy has been launching a large jamming campaign aganist Al-Quds. What is new, however, is the increase in the intensity of the jamming and its continuation.

Brother strugglers: For better reception of our transmission, and to lessen the effect of the jamming by the Zionist enemy, the engineers of Al-Quds radio advise one of the following methods:

1. Stretching a long antenna and directing it toward the northeast.

2. Changing the position of the receiver; it is better that it be in a vertical position.

3. Changing the position of the receiver to the angle with the best reception.

4. Attaching an aluminium plate to the receiver and changing the position so that the best reception can be obtained.

Brother strugglers, our kinfolk everywhere: The Zionist enemy is intensifying its jamming of Al-Quds radio because this enemy is against the fact and against the firm and principled stand of Al-Quds radio. God is with us; victory is imminent; and together we march along the path of liberating land and man.

'Arafat Begins Talks With Hungary's Grosz 16 Mar

LD1603120389 Budapest MTI in English 1100 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] Budapest, March 16 (MTI)—Talks between Karoly Grosz and Yasir 'Arafat began at HSWP Central Committee headquarters late this morning. The president of the Executive Committee of the Palestinian Liberation Organization is in Hungary at the invitation of the general secretary of the HSWP.

The entourage of the high-ranking Palestinian official includes Sulayman al-Najjab, member of the PLO Executive Committee and general secretary of the Communist Party of Palestine, Mamduh Nufal ['Umar Nufal 'Abd al-Rahim] member of the Political Committee of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, as well as 'Abdal-Latif Abu Hajla, deputy head of the PLO Political Department.

From the Hungarian side, Geza Kotai, head of the Central Committee's Department for International Party Relations, will also be at the negotiating [as received] table.

Unified National Leadership Issues Call No 36

JN1503202589 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1838 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Call No 36 issued by the PLO—the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah in the "State of Palestine"—date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Call, call, call. No voice shall rise above the voice of the intifadah [uprising]; no voice shall rise above the voice of the people of Palestine, the people of the PLO. The call of Al-Karamah [refers to anniversary of battle of Al-Karamah] No 36.

O masses of our noble Palestinian people; O masses of the valiant intifadah; O masses of the independent Palestinian state on our precious soil; O thee who gave the small stone great meaning; O thee who made the Palestinian Molotov cocktail a strategic weapon that shakes the pillars of the enemy and the world's confidence in it; O masses of our great people: Nowadays, you are living the greatest ecstasies of your victories, while the whole civilized world is looking to you with pride and glory, despite the fact that it did not do much to end the massacres to which you are subjected all the time. You are living the ecstasy of victory deep in your hearts despite the barbarism, savageness, and massacres of the enemy and its troops, which are frightened by your sacred stones and your unshakeable belief in the inevitability of victory.

O our struggling, sacrificing people: The leaders of the enemy, like the terrorist Shamir and the executioner Rabin, try to pressure, through the use of all means of oppression, to infringe on your legendary steadfastness and your relentless determination. However, their military leaders assure them, and say: We have used all means of oppression, tyranny, murder, house demolition, and collective detentions, and we have not managed to stop the intifadah. You better use politics.

Shamir will come to us with a plan that he knows in advance that the youngest Palestinian child will reject. He himself knows that he is not trying to solve the problem, but to beautify Israel's face, which is ugly even to its friends. Then the rancorous executioner Rabin will come after him to say: I began to feel that a number of inhabitants in the territories began to be inclined to the solution that I proposed. Where are those inhabitants, O you executioner of the 20th century? Yes, certainly in your fantasy.

These plans, which were stillborn, were cursed by the masses of our struggling people. They were cursed by the souls of our pure martyrs; they were cursed by the cells of our valiant detainees, who are held in prisons because of your increasing vindictiveness. Our valiant martyrs' souls, our children's stones, our strike forces' Molotov cocktails, and the iron fists of those who are behind bars will continue to pursue those leaders and their defeated troops until the evacuation of the last occupying soldier from the soil of our independent Palestinian state on our national soil under the leadership of our sole legitimate representative—the PLO.

O masses of our independent Palestinian state: The PLO and its arm the Unified National Leadership greet and praise the heroism and steadfastness of our kinfolk in the Al-Qasabah quarter in Nabulus and in every city, village, and camp against which the enemy leaders are issuing all sorts of repressive and barbaric orders, particularly against the Al-Qasabah quarter. These measures have caused their hearts to bleed in every quarter, street, and lane. They issued their repressive orders so that the Al-Qasabah quarter would be a lesson for others. What was the result? Our kinfolk in this quarter defied the occupiers and resisted the attempts to uproot them from their land despite the blowing up of houses, mass detentions, beatings, curfews, and even denial of medical treatment. Our kinfolk remained on their land and continued to live on the debris of their demolished houses. Defiance of the occupation forces has even intensified, not only in the Al-Qasabah quarter, but also in every street and square in our occupied state. The soldiers and unrestrained settlers became insecure on a land that they know is not theirs. This state of confusion prompted the enemy leaders to tell a number of summoned personalities: If the people agree to end the intifadah, we will withdraw the army and replace it with Border Guard forces, as if these forces are not occupation forces.

O masses of our valiant intifadah, the enemy leaders do not do us a favor by this rejected action. They are trying to pull together their collapsing forces and overcome their constant fear of their presence on the land of the state of Palestine. They are trying to absorb the indignation and protests expressed by their soldiers who began to voice their criticism explicitly. They became exhausted and apprehensive about everything around them after they felt that their leaders were lying to them when they said that the intifadah would end in 1 or 2 months.

Our struggling and patient people, the enemy leaders' bragging of their terrorism and increased repression against the masses of our Palestinian state requires our struggling masses to remain faithful to the pledge and oath. The heroes of the strike forces will not stop pursuing the occupation soldiers and the unrestrained settlers wherever they exist on the land of our occupied Palestinian state. The pompous political promises by the enemy leaders, like autonomy and local elections, will not dissuade us from increasing our confrontation and defiance, because victory is coming, God willing, and politics has its master, represented by the PLO, our sole and legitimate representative. Our intifadah will continue to be blazing through solid national unity until the liberation of the lands of our Palestinian state and the attainment of full national sovereignty in it.

O masses of our heroic Palestinian people, the Unified National Leadership, the arm of the PLO and its extension in the state of Palestine, while waging the struggle with you, and proceeding from its national responsibility and its renewal of the pledge and oath to our righteous martyrs and heroic prisoners, stresses the following points:

The Unified National Leadership appreciates the response made by our national institutions and factories by increasing the wages of their workers and employees in view of the extraordinary circumstances. We call on our brother employers who have not implemented this appeal to do so as soon as possible out of their feeling of national responsibility and in a bid to abort the plans for starvation the enemy is imposing on the masses of our generous people.

The Unified National Leadership greets our brave merchants' response and their challenge to the occupation authorities by not paying taxes that serve this occupation's existence. The National Leadership urges those merchants to expand their boycott of Israeli commodities. In this regard, the Unified National Leadership warns the agents and brokers against their attempts to flood local markets with Israeli agricultural products. The Unified National Leadership urges the strike forces to be alert and to put an end to these attempts. It urges our brother merchants not to tamper with the prices and to form price control committees to put an end to this tampering that serves the occupation.

The Unified National Leadership renews its call on the employees in the Civil Administration, traffic, customs, and police departments to resign from their posts in response to the call of duty. It also calls on the sons of our great people not to deal with the so-called plan to renew personal identification cards. The Unified National Leadership calls on the strike forces and all our honest people to boycott the Civil Administration on this.

The Unified National Leadership once again calls on our brother teachers and academicians to further form popular education committees and national guidance committees, as well as to expand the bases of national education to serve our people in every city, village, camp, and district.

O people of freedom and national independence: The greatness of the victories and achievements you attained emerge in the continuation of the militant march of our militant people through the big sacrifices and the placing of all potentials to achieve our national sovereignty in our independent state. This can be achieved through an insistence on escalating the intifadah and following up the political moves of the PLO, our sole, legitimate representative. In light of this situation, the Unified National Leadership affirms the following issues:

The Unified National Leadership calls on all Israeli sectors to realize the impasse they are facing as a result of their leaders' insistence on war and aggression. The Israelis must affirm to their leaders that the only road to peace is holding negotiations with our sole, legitimate representative, the PLO, and the recognition of the Palestinian people's national, legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination in their independent state.

On this occasion, we greet the Israeli peace forces and praise their stands. However, we call on them not to remain captive to statements and courtesy visits, despite their importance. We call on them to move earnestly within Israel quarters to expose the atrocities that are being perpetrated daily against our people. This is because the repressive practices and collective detentions carried out by the occupation forces on the land of the State of Palestine will not prevent our people from continuing their intifadah until the occupation is defeated and the independent Palestinian state is established under the leadership of the PLO.

The Unified National Leadership calls on all sectors of our people to close ranks in this decisive stage so that everybody will know that we are a people who are as steadfast as the Palestinian mountains and as strong as the Palestinian rocks on which all plots of fragmentation, separation, and alternatives are defeated.

The Unified National Leadership urges the Arab brothers to join firmly to support the intifadah through the PLO, our sole, legitimate representative. We say to our Arab brothers that our struggle and steadfastness need your support, unity, and your effective moves in all international orgaizations and the countries that can affect the Israeli entity.

O brothers; O people of the intifadah; O people of struggle, sacrifices, and giving; O heroes of the strike forces: The Unified National Leadership in the State of Palestine calls on you to successfully implement the following activities:

Friday, 17 March, the anniversary of opening the Ansar detention camp in the Negev, will be a day of sit-ins at the headquarters of the Red Cross and the international organizations. Signs will be raised calling for the release of detainees and the closure of the detention camps.

The day of 18 March will be a day of challenge and confrontation. The strike forces will carry out their activities with all available methods.

Tuesday, 21. March, the day of Al-Karamah, will be a unique day in confronting the occupation authorities and settlers to entrench national dignity in Palestinian territory.

Wednesday, 22 March, will be a day of general and comprehensive strike in protest of the American congressional decision to close the PLO office in Washington—the first anniversary.

Thursday, 23 March, will be a day of popular education. The higher education council, the university administrations, and teachers will be called on to achieve success on the idea of popular education. The students are called on to cooperate in this.

Friday and Sunday, 24 and 26 March will be days of prayer on the souls of martyrs. The martyrs' tombs and families will be visited on these days.

Monday, 27 March, will be a day of general strike. Our people will reclaim our Palestinian lands and work to develop home products.

Tuesday, 28 March, will be a day of pursuing those who are propagating Israeli commodities.

Wednesday, 29 March, will be a day of Palestinian Molotov and pursuing the occupation forces and herds of settlers.

Long live the steel arms of the strike forces. Long live the brave intifadah of our people. Long live the Palestinian Al-Karamah day. Glory and immortality to our righteous martyrs. And certainly we will triumph.

Signed: The PLO, the Unified National Leadership. The State of Palestine.

PLO Aide Examines, Welcomes Soviet Initiatives

PM0703170389 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic
4 Mar 89 p 5

[Interview with Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to the PLO leader, by Muhammad al-Khadri in Riyadh on 2 March]

[Excerpts] [Al-Khadri] Could you throw some light on the recent Soviet initiative as well as the PLO's view of and position on that initiative?

[Al-Hasan] Undoubtedly the Soviet Union as a superpower is a principal party to any regional issues in the world. Had it not been for Soviet-U.S. detente, we would not have witnessed a solution to the Iraq-Iran war, the Afghan problem, or indeed the Kampuchean and Angolan problems. That applies to the Middle East problem. On this basis, the Soviet Union is a principal partner in the Middle East problem, despite some forces' attempt to ignore this fact.

On this basis also, the Soviet Union is now making active moves to give impetus to the situation in the Middle East, which without doubt serves the Palestinian cause, the Arab nation's prime cause.

In fact, the Soviet Union is concentrating basically on establishing an Arab negotiating front from the frontline states. This is why there are Soviet moves to convene a Syrian-Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian-Lebanese meeting to coordinate among these forces and unify their stances. We in the PLO are very pleased with the progress that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has achieved vis-a-vis Palestinian-Syrian relations that will, God willing, witness important developments in the stage ahead.

[Al-Khadri] And is there tacit Soviet-U.S. agreement over these moves?

[Al-Hasan] Certainly. At present, there something that is more than accord but less than agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States—an important matter that will reflect on world issues.

[Al-Khadri] Are the moves between the United States and the Soviet Union intended to eclipse the European initiative, especially after the foreign ministers of three states, namely Spain, France, and Greece, made a tour of the region a few days before Shevardnadze's visit to the region?

[Al-Hasan] No. On the contrary, the European role is required in the first place. But Israel does not want Europe to play a part in resolving the Middle East problem. This is what Shamir tried to achieve during his visit to French President Francois Mitterrand. He tried to prevent a meeting between Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and President Mitterrand. But according to my information, Shamir failed to achieve that, and a meeting between President Mitterrand and Brother Abu 'Ammar will be held this month in Paris. Talks are being held to arrange that meeting during this month, March.

[Al-Khadri] We have heard that a meeting was held in Tunis between PLO representative in Tunisia Hakam Bal'awi and the U.S. ambassador in Tunis. Does this fall within the continuity of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue?

[Al-Hasan] U.S.-Palestinian meetings within the framework of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue are held to ensure the continuity of that dialogue. This is because the United States will not move a step forward until after Shamir's visit to Washington, especially as President Bush is facing a major problem in Congress as a result of the power of the Zionist lobby spread within U.S. political forces. So we do not expect any results leading to a breakthrough in the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue before the middle or end of next month, April, when the U.S. Administration will have taken a decision on a move.

[Al-Khadri] You spoke about the Soviet initiative and said that there are moves among the frontline states. Does this mean the revival of the five-member committee, as stated by Yasir 'Arafat?

[Al-Hasan] There has never been a five-member committee in the past. The five-member committee is a new proposal, as there has never been any five-member committee. But that is what the Soviet Union is trying to push forward, and we thank it for that.

[Al-Khadri] But that requires a minimum improvement in Egyptian-Syrian and Syrian-PLO relations. What have these endeavors achieved so far?

[Al-Hasan] Praise be to God, inter-Arab relations, thanks to the custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, have witnessed major improvement recently, and that has played a part in producing major results. It is my conviction that Egyptian-Syrian relations have improved as a result of the calm and quiet role played by the custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and His Royal Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, may God protect them both. The Kingdom also played an important, quiet role in improving Palestinian-Syrian relations. At present, the Soviet Union is exerting real pressure on Syria to improve these relations.

[Al-Khadri] And what has Syria's response been to these efforts and toward the PLO?

[Al-Hasan] What we heard from Minister Shevardnadze inspires satisfaction and optimism. [passage omitted]

[Al-Khadri] What about the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in light of Shevardnadze's meetings with the PLO leader and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens? Has a Palestinian-Israeli contact actually taken place, and at what level?

[Al-Hasan] No. No Palestinian-Israeli contact was held in Cairo. You know that Arens' and Shamir's prime political concern is to destroy the PLO, and they refuse to talk with it.

So it is not possible that Shamir will agree to talk to any Palestinian official before his will is destroyed, and that is what the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] is doing at the moment inside the occupied land. We could not meet with Minister Shevardnadze except in Egypt, because of the schedule set for his movements. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Bessaieh on Morocco Border Treaty Ratification
LD1103185689 Rabat MAP in English 1238 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] Algiers, March 11 (MAP)—Algeria has recorded with "satisfaction" the decision announced on March 3 by King Hassan II and related to the upcoming ratification of the 1972 treaty marking boundaries between the two countries.

For Algeria, the decision is "part of the willingness to make Moroccan-Algerian relations resume their natural place and to base them on new firm bases" Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh said earlier this week before the Algerian National Assembly "APN" during the debates on the ratification of the treaty establishing the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA).

In a statement that was reproduced later on by the Algerian news agency "APS", Bessaieh said Algeria considers that this decision "proceeds from a future vision of the Maghreb as it came to consolidate the atmosphere of political detente prevailing in the region and strengthen the determination to carry out the unifying work in harmony, concord, mutual respect and shared advantage".

"At a moment we are making of union our common ideal and top priority, it might seem paradoxal to speak of borders, but in fact to deal with the issue is essentially part of the clarity without which there cannot be a well-established trust", the Algerian foreign minister said.

He added that this does not exclude "the future Maghreb without borders which is our sole force and our sole future". He specified further that Algeria wishes the building up of the Maghreb union without over-estimating nor under-estimating its means, for, he explained, both attitudes will be harmful to the union which must be built up stone by stone.

"We wish a union establishing a space of brotherhood, solidarity and prosperity for all our peoples, a space where we will all be winners without any loser" Bessaieh said.

The UMA, he pointed out, must be "a space of stability, security and non-alignment" such are the "essence of our unifying work" after the Marrakech summit, Maghrebans must now set priorities and specific datelines to carry out joint actions and define the means and ways of implementing the adopted decisions. The UMA will make the force of the region, of the Arab nation and of the African Continent as it will make the force of the Islamic community, the Algerian foreign minister said before stressing the importance of regional gatherings which will, alone, have an economic and geopolitical weight in the future.

Commerce, Industry Protocol Signed With Morocco
LD1503112889 Algiers APS in English 1000 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Algiers, 15/3/89 (APS)—Minutes of an agreement between Algeria and Morocco in the field of commerce and industry was signed Tuesday here. The document which concerns mainly the flow of products between the two countries and facilitate custom operations between the two countries and was signed by Minister of Commerce Mourad Medelci and the Moroccan minister of commerce and industry, Abdallah Azmani.

Following the signature, Medelci declared that the agreement will enable the boosting of cooperation in the sense of complementarity on sound bases in order to consolidate the economy. On his turn, the Moroccan minister underlined the importance of talks which led to principle of commercial and industrial exchanges between the two countries after the political agreement of Marrakech.

It is worth recalling that during his stay which started on Sunday, the Moroccan minister had a series of talks with members of government on prospects of cooperation in the field of commerce and industry.

Egypt

Ministry Official on Tabah Visa, Currency Rules
NC1403194489 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Ambassador Ibrahim Yusri, director of the Foreign Ministry's legal department, has stated that Egypt has paid the compensations for the hotel and tourist installations at Tabah.

Ambassador Yusri said that the same regulations applicable in the southern Sinai area will apply in Tabah. Visas valid for 14 days will be given gratis to all tourists entering the Tabah area through the existing points of entry.

The Egyptian currency will be used in the area. The regulations on the tourist boats sailing into southern Sinai will also apply to Tabah. The hotel in the area will be managed by Sonesta International, provided 90 percent of the manpower employed at the hotel is Egyptian.

National Holiday To Mark Restoration of Tabah
NC1603065189 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 16 Mar 89

[From the "press review"]

[Text] On the occasion of the Liberation Day, AL-AHRAM newspaper says that next Monday [20 March] will be an official holiday for all ministries, government departments, and public sector units. The day will mark the date of the restoration of the last inch of Sinai, thus replacing the [Sinai Day on] 25 April. [Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1616 on 15 March mentions that Sunday, 19 Mar, "will be an official holiday this year in Egypt."]

Cairo Radio Comments on Return of Tabah

NC1503210089 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Ahmad al-Qasir commentary: "The Liberation of Tabah Is the Beginning of the Liberation of All the Occupied Arab Territories"]

[Text] Israel's flag was lowered at Tabah last night under cover of darkness, thus giving way and allowing the Egyptian flag to be raised high there forever. This heralds the return of this dear part of national soil to the embrace of the mother country Egypt, and announces to the whole world that Egypt has liberated the last part of its territories in Sinai after more than 21 years of occupation.

This great national event naturally arouses overwhelming sentiments of joy, not only on the part of the Egyptians but also on the part of all the Arab in general. Equally, it symbolizes the will and determination of victory, affirms that Egypt does not and will not abandon any of its rights or those of the Arabs, and underlines its desire to achieve a just peace throughout the region.

Egypt begins its celebrations marking the return of Tabah today and will officially celebrate the return in a ceremony to be held under the aegis of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on Sunday. On this occasion, Egypt would like to salute the memory of its noble martyrs who made this victory possible, as well as its heroes in the Armed Forces who, during the liberation war of 1973, proved to the entire world that they were capable of defending the national soil and liberating it from the hands of the usurpers.

The fact that Egypt regained the Tabah region today underlines several important facts, foremost among which are the following:

1. The return of Tabah can be considered a true start for the return of all the occupied Arab territories in the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan, and at the same time it emphasizes that the forcible occupation of the land of others cannot continue as long as there remain legitimate owners claiming this land, no matter how long it takes for the land to be returned.

2. The return of Tabah through negotiations and international arbitration stresses the importance of negotiations as the best way to solve the Palestinian problem within the context of international efforts, as demonstrated by an international conference. It also indicates that Israel has no choice but to accept it and negotiate directly with the PLO, the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

3. The success of the intensive diplomatic activity during the painstaking negotiations on the Tabah issue, with the substantial contribution on the part of the United States, affirms the need for Washington to play a more effective role in solving the Middle East issue, in its capacity as a major party to the peace process and in a bid to develop the initial step taken by the Reagan administration to begin a dialogue with the PLO. What gives rise to hope in this respect is the statement made yesterday by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, in which, for the first time, he called on Israel to hold direct talks with the PLO or its representatives.

4. The liberation of Tabah today sends a direct message to all peace-loving forces in the world who take an interest in the maintenance of stability and security in the Middle East. This message urges them to intensify their ongoing efforts to persuade Israel to give up the West Bank and Gaza, whose owners told the whole world more than 15 months ago that they reject Israel's occupation of their lands by armed force.

5. Completing the liberation of Sinai today, after so much painstaking effort, will give the Egyptian people full opportunity to free themselves completely to launch their greatest battle—that of economic challenge. We are diligently facing this challenge today, in order to increase productivity and development. By doing so, we will add another victory to the record of our national victories.

Official Views Mubarak's Tour, Debt Issue

NC1303201989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Bonn, 13 Mar (MENA)—Dr Mamduh al-Biltaji, chairman of the Public Information Authority, said today that President Husni Mubarak's visit to the FRG and his current European tour reflect Egypt's weight and role and the importance it attaches to the European role.

Dr al-Biltaji said this top-level activity stems from Egypt's awareness of the European role's importance as the Israeli Government is adopting an intransigent attitude and not responding to calls for peace by members of the international community.

Dr al-Biltaji said Israel still believes that by adopting a policy of repression it can end the heroic intifadah [uprising] of the Palestinian people, something which is incorrect. The continuation of this courageous intifadah has ended the fait accompli and has put the challenge of peace to Israel as did the PLO position. He stressed that Egypt's role in this respect is clear. Egypt is currently working to maintain stability and regional peace, and Europe is primarily concerned with peace in the Middle East.

Dr al-Biltaji added that the importance of President Mubarak's visit is also due to the fact that the United States, a main partner in the peace process, is dragging its feet. This foot dragging, he added, is related to two factors. The first concerns the new U.S. Administration now in power, which is trying to study and assess the situation and wishes to be cautious in its approach. The second factor is that the U.S. Administration believes that as time passes, there could be better conditions for a settlement, both from its point of view and that of Israel. Therefore, he added, the European role is important because it is positive. Europe has an interest in preserving peace and stability and very much appreciates the role played by Egypt under President Mubarak and his peace-making efforts in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Al-Biltaji said that Mubarak's European tour aims to give Egypt better opportunities for accelerating the development process through joint cooperation with the EC as a whole and with each of the European countries separately. It also aims to gain Europe's understanding and support for Egypt's position on the debt issue. He added that Egypt's stand on this issue is clear. Egypt believes in the need for economic reforms. It has made strides in this respect in the last few years, and there are more to be made.

Dr al-Biltaji said it must be understood that the political leadership in Egypt is concerned about the social dimension of development. It wants to make sure that low-income people do not pay the price for reforms and development, and President Mubarak is extremely concerned about the low-income sectors in Egypt. Therefore, he declares wherever he goes, that Egypt has its own viewpoint on the debt issue.

Dr al-Biltaji said that the talks with the IMF will not end and Egypt will not suspend its debt repayments or halt its economic reform plan. However, he added, Egypt will establish its own timetable for this reform plan and will introduce doses of reforms compatible with its own views on the importance of social circumstances in development. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Returns from Riyadh
NC1503215889 Cairo MENA in English 2020 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Cairo, March 15 (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif returned here tonight from Riyadh after he had led Egypt's delegation to Islamic foreign ministers' meetings there. He said the meetings were important as regards coordinating views of Islamic countries over the Palestinian cause, especially after the resolutions of the Palestine National Council, including the proclamation of the Palestinian state. He said the Islamic foreign ministers conference also discussed means of stepping up the peace process between Iran and Iraq and called for supporting the Afghan mujahidin.

100 Members of Islamic Societies' Released
JN1103115489 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 9 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] A hundred members of the Islamic societies were released at the higher council for Islamic affairs yesterday. However, they refused to hold a dialogue with their eminences Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali, Mufti of the Republic Dr Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, and Awqaf Minister Dr Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub, who came to the council to speak with them on the occasion of their release. His Eminence Islamic Scholar Shaykh Muhammad Mutawalli al-Sha'rawi waited in the council to meet the released members, but he left for an appointment with his doctor.

Drug Combat Unit Seizes Hashish in South
JN1603091689 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 14 Mar 89 p 7

[Excerpt] The Interior Ministry's drug combating department and drug combating office in the southern region managed to seize 5 tonnes of hashish hidden by Mahmud al-Sayyid Salih and belonging to Sayyid 'Abd al-Tawwab, the drug trafficker arrested 15 days ago. [passage omitted]

Libya

JANA Condemns VOA Allegations on Al-Rabitah
LD1403160289 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1509 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Mar (JANA)—The Voice of America radio, in its commentary which expresses the views of the U.S. administration, attacked the great Jamahiriyah today and repeated the phrases which the former Reagan administration used against the Libyan people and thier industrial achievements, inlcuding the Al-Rabitah pharmaceutical complex.

The radio included allegations which the U.S. Administration used to make regarding the so-called Libyan Arab people's support for terrorism and using the name of Libya when discussing the spread of chemical weapons. The great Jamahiriyah had repeatedly reaffirmed that it is not thinking about producing them, condemns their spread, and demands that such weapons be destroyed in the U.S. and in other countries which manufacture and use them, as this is in accordance with the green document on human rights in jamahiri society.

The JANA international affairs editor reaffirms that the great Jamahiriyah rejects U.S. allegations and reaffirms its right to reject any tutelage from anyone, as nobody has the right to install himself as a policeman of this world.

The editor points out that the U.S. Administration—when it keeps repeating the logic which used to prevail during the Reagan era—inflicts grave damage on international relations and obstructs efforts to defuse international tension—something which the American people demand, because the American people, above others, have suffered at length from the negative consequences of Reagan's terrorist policy against the Libyan Arab people.

He says that such behaviour does not contribute to solving crises between peoples, and reaffirms that the method which contributes to the solution of such problems is democratic dialogue based on understanding and respect. He points out that the United States is hostile toward the Arab nation at a time when the United States does not talk about the arsenal of destruction which the Zionist enemy has. We have not heard any U.S. objection to the stockpile of such weapons which the Zionist have. The editor says that it is strange for a U.S. official to make a haphazard evaluation describing others as dictators—a description which the U.S. administration uses against those who make human efforts to perpetuate human rights and guarantee an honorable life for people—something which the Great jamahiriyah is struggling to spread the world over through the green document on human rights. This document guarantees the natural right of the human being to his sweat and toil and to self-determination in a comprehensive form of freedom and democracy far from tyranny and domination. JANA's international affairs editor expresses hope that the logic of wisdom shall prevail in international relations between people.

Basic People's Congresses To Convene 18 Mar

LD1403114789 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1045 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Mar (JANA)—The Secretariat of the General People's Congress (GPC) has issued Resolution No 42 of the year 1989 concerning the convening of the basic people's congresses. The text follows:

With reference to:

—The proclamation of people's authority;

—Resolution No 9 of 1984 on the organizaton of the People's congresses;

—GPC Resolution No 10 of the year 1987 on the general resolution of the people's congresses;

—Resolution No [number indistinct] of the year 1989 on the selection of the Secretariat of the GPC;

The GPC Secretariat has decided:

Clause 1: The basic people's congresses are called to hold an emergency session on Saturday, 11 Sha'ban 1398 after the death of the prophet, corresponding to 18 March 1989, to debate the agreement setting up the Arab Maghreb Union;

Clause 2: This Resolution shall be published in the media and in the official gazette. It shall be valid from the date of its issuance.

[Signed] The Secretariat of the GPC

Chadians in Tripoli Seek Refuge in Embassy

AB0603221789 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Hundreds of Chadians resident in Libya have been going through hell for some time now in Tripoli. Libyan housing services last week began to destroy the houses of Chadian nationals. No explanation was given for these measures and occupants of the destroyed houses have not been given new houses. Several hundred Chadians thus found themselves homeless and took refuge with their wives and children on the premises of the Embassy of Chad in Tripoli. Their situation is quite precarious and is compounded by the cold weather on the Libyan coast.

Al-Qadhdhafi Thanks Traore for Chad Mediation

AB1303220989 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, has sent a message of thanks through his ambassador in Bamako to the current OAU chairman, General Moussa Traore, for the tireless efforts that Gen Traore has made to find a lasting solution to the Chad-Libya conflict. Col al-Qadhdhafi noted with satisfaction the recent decisions made by President Hissein Habre after his visit to Bamako. He said these measures are likely to consolidate peace in the subregion.

Bahrain

Iran's Jannati Arrives With Khamene'i Message

Delivers Message to Amir

JN1203075889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0720 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Manama, 12 Mar (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, received a written message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i on entrenching bilateral relations and holding consultations on issues that are of concern to the Islamic world, especially those pertaining to the topics listed on the agenda of the Islamic Conference Organization's foreign ministers meeting which will be held in Riyadh tomorrow, Monday.

The message was conveyed by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, member of the Council of Guardians of the Constitution and head of the Islamic Propaganda Organization, during his meeting with the amir of the State of Bahrain this morning.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign minister; Shaykh 'Abd al-Rahman ibn Muhammad ibn Rashid Al Khalifah, under secretary of the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs; and Hoseyn Naraqiyan, Iranian charge d'affaires to Bahrain.

The Iranian envoy arrived in Bahrain earlier in the day as part of a current tour that has taken him to a number of the region's states.

Meets With Foreign Minister

JN1203130389 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Manama, 12 Mar (WAKH)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah met here today with an Iranian delegation headed by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, member of the Council of Guardians of the Constitution and head of the Islamic Propaganda Organization, who is currently visiting Bahrain. During the meeting, they exchanged views on some topics listed on the agenda of the 18th session of the Islamic foreign ministers' conference which will begin its meetings in Riyadh tomorrow, Monday, morning.

Ends Visit, Leaves for Doha

JN1303081289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0745 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Manama, 13 Mar (WAKH)—Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, member of the Council of Guardians of the Constitution and head of the Islamic Propaganda Organization, left Manama for Doha after a 2-day visit to Bahrain. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Receives Message From Velayati

JN0903153589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1135 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Manama, 9 Mar (WAKH)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah received a written message from Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. The message deals with topics on the agenda of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], which will be held in Riyadh on 13 March and last for 3 days. Hoseyn Naraqiyan, Iranian charge d'affaires in Bahrain, delivered the message when he met with the Bahraini foreign minister today.

New Arabic Newspaper AL-AYYAM Launched

JN0703094289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Manama, 7 Mar (WAKH)—The first issue of the newspaper AL-AYYAM [THE DAYS], the second daily Arabic-language political newspaper in Bahrain, was issued in Manama today. [passage omitted]

In an article entitled "Why AL-AYYAM", Nabil Ya'qub al-Hamar, chairman of the board of directors and editor in chief, said that AL-AYYAM will be a new voice in this good land and a voice and forum for the citizen to express his conscience and embody his freedom of expression. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

33 Indicted on State Security Charges

LD1503131989 Kuwait KUNA in English 1227 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Kuwait, March 15 (KUNA)—Prosecution of the state security has decided to indict 33 men on charges ranging from plotting to topple the state's rule to divulging secrets of the country's defense, a prosecution official source said Wednesday.

Eighteen of the defendants are Kuwaitis, nine Iraqis, two Iranians, two Lebanese, a Briton of Lebanese origin and one stateless person, the source said. Of the 33 defendants, 18 are already under detention, while 13 are at large and two had been released on bail, he added.

The defendants will face charges of belonging to outlawed groups that seek to unlawfuly undermine the country's political, economic and social systems, the source said. They will also be indicted for public incitement against the regime, propagating destructive beliefs and slandering his highness the amir.

Without specifying their numbers, the source said some of the defendants will face charges of plotting for the assassination of public figures, or their offspring in Kuwait—a crime which the souce said is punishable by death or a life jail term. One man will be accused of divulging state defence secrets while another will be indicted on charges of extortion of public funds.

Al-Usaymi Meets With PRC's Tian Jiyun 15 Mar
LD1503145389 Kuwait KUNA in English 1030 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Kuwait, March 15 (KUNA)—State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi Wednesday met with Chinese Vice Premier Tian Jiyun, currently on an official visit to the country. An authoritative source at the ministry told KUNA that the meeting covered issues of bilateral cooperation, regional and international issues and other matters of common concern. Jiyun arrived here last night leading an official and commercial delegation.

Banks Set New Dinar Exchange Rate Margins
JN1203150689 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 11 Mar 89 p 1

[By Jadranka Porter]

[Text] Kuwaiti banks introduced on Thursday common maximum and minimum dinar exchange rates in a bid to lessen the buying and selling of the currency for speculative gain, bankers and dealers said.

The move, which has the Central Bank's blessing, will have no major impact on the market, dealers said, but it will discourage currency speculation by corporate entities and reduce inter-bank exchange dealing.

Dealers said that banks will now be able to buy at a maximum of 25 points below the Central Bank bid rate and sell at a minimum of 40 points above the asked price for amounts of more than KD [Kuwaiti dinars] 10,000 and of 80 points for amounts below KD 10,000.

Minimum charges for dealing in amounts below KD 10,000 are now greater. The official exchange rate is fixed daily by the Central Bank. The Central Bank's spread is 10 points but the banks' spread, which had been uniformly regarded as narrow, was now widened. "The banks were free to charge as little as they wanted," said a dealer.

On Thursday when the Central Bank buying rate for dollar was KD 0.28927 the maximum the banks could pay for it was KD 0.28902, the dealer said. The minimum price they could charge for a dollar on the same day was KD 0.28977, 40 points above the offered rate.

Explaining the new measure, a Kuwaiti-based banker said it is aimed at reducing the volatility in Kuwait's foreign exchange market.

Oman

Deputy Defense Minister Returns From India Visit
JN1103135189 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] His Highness Fahr ibn Taymur Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for security and defense, and his military delegation have returned home from the friendly Republic of India, following an official 4-day visit there. During the visit, the deputy prime minister conferred with India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, and the foreign and defense ministers. His highness visited military and industrial installations of the Indian Armed Forces.

Trade Minister Returns From UAE Visit
JN0803185289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1811 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Muscat, 8 Mar (WAKH)—Salim ibn 'Abdallah al-Ghazali, Omani trade and industry minister, returned to Muscat this evening from the United Arab Emirates after a 2-day visit. [passage omitted]

Thai Crown Prince Arrives on Visit 8 Mar
JN0803154989 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Excerpt] His Highness Prince Maha Wachiralongkon, crown prince of Thailand, arrived today on an official 3-day visit to the Sultanate. His highness the Thai crown prince was accorded an official reception. At head of those receiving his highness at the Special Sultanate Airport was His Highness Thuwayni ibn Shihab Al Sa'id, the personal representative of his majesty the sultan. [passage omitted]

Departs Muscat 10 Mar
JN1003135089 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Excerpt] His Highness Prince Maha Wachiralongkon, crown prince of the Kingdom of Thailand, and the accompanying delegation left the country this afternoon after a 3-day official visit of the sultanate, during which he was received by His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id. Heading the delegation to see the Thai crown prince off was His Highness Thuwayni ibn Shihab Al Sa'id, his majesty's special representative. [passage omitted]

PDRY

Foreign Minister on Jordan Visit, Joining ACC
JN1403210689 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 5 Mar 89 p 11

[Interview with 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, foreign minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen by Raja Talab—date, place not given]

[Excerpt] [Talab] We would like to know the reasons for your visit to the Jordanian capital and the issues you discussed there.

[Al-Dali] My visit to Jordan came in response to an invitation from Marwan al-Qasim, Jordanian deputy prime minister and foreign minister. This was my first official visit to Jordan. My goals were limited to discussing bilateral relations and the means to promote them. The meetings were very fruitful and opened new horizons for Yemeni-Jordanian cooperation. In reality, every time we Arabs meet, despite the differences in our ruling systems, we find that the points of agreement between us are greater than the differences. This is the result I came up with after my intensive discussions in Jordan with Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim. During my visit, I also conveyed a message from President Abu Bakr al-'Attas to His Majesty King Husayn dealing with bilateral relations and new developments in the Arab arena. In short, the visit was successful to an extent I did not imagine.

[Talab] Did you touch on the topic of establishing the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] during the meeting?

[Al-Dali] It was an opportunity for me to be informed and let the brothers in Jordan explain to me, whether during the meeting with the foreign minister or with Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, the motives and goals of forming the council. Of course, we previously wished the council success and considered it a step toward Arab solidarity and one of the unionist Arab steps.

We believe that the presence of the northern part of the homeland in this council will help to promote steps toward unity between the two parts. Unity steps between the two parts will also promote the ACC. We are unionists and not against any unionist project.

[Talab] Do you believe that the northern part's move to join the council will help unify the two parts?

[Al-Dali] We are optimistic regarding any Arab grouping that aims to create greater cooperation, coordination, and closeness. Therefore, we believe that the presence of the northern part in the union will push toward more unionist steps between the two parts, especially retrieving unity for the Yemeni land and people. This is what we believe. We are joined by very close relations to the council's countries and believe that the coming stage will witness more developments in relations with fraternal countries in the ACC.

[Talab] Why doesn't the PDRY join this council?

[Al-Dali] A premature issue—I mean, answering the question and not joining. We are still in the stage of informing ourselves on many of the union's goals, details, and issues it deals with. We will leave the issue of joining to the future. We are not opposed to our presence in the council in the future. In principle, we are for any unionist step in the interest of Arab solidarity and our Arab people. There are no hindrances to our joining any grouping or unionist formulation, including the council.

[Talab] It was said that you presented an official request to the council and that President al-'Attas will officialize this membership in Amman.

[Al-Dali] These are rumors. It is not true. We did not submit an official request to join the council, and President al-'Attas' coming visit was decided upon before the ACC's establishment. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Returns From Arab Nations Tour

EA0303230189 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
2030 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Brother Dr Abd al-Aziz al-Dali, member of the Central Committee and foreign minister, returned to Aden this evening after completing his visits to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the state of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Brother al-Dali told ADEN NEWS AGENCY that he visited the fraternal Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in response to an official invitation from his brother, Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. During the visit, he conveyed a written message from Comrade Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, to his brother, the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn bin Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He said that he held a number of meetings with His Highness Prince al-Hasan bin Talal, the viceroy and crown prince; His Excellency Zayd al-Rifa'i, the prime minister; Brother Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and a number of other brother ministers.

The most prominent questions in bilateral relations and Arab issues of common interest were discussed during the meetings, which were held in an atmosphere of friendship and brotherhood. The discussions reflected the desire and the genuine and serious efforts made by the two sides to further develop and strengthen relations in various fields, including those at the highest levels, between the two brotherly countries. In this connection, he pointed out that agreement had been reached on forming a joint ministerial committee to discuss the best ways and appropriate (means?) for joint [word indistinct].

Al-Dali said that as a result of the meetings it had become clear that there are numerous opportunities for cooperation, progress and prosperity in the interests of the two brotherly peoples.

The brother foreign minister said that during their review of the situation in the Arab arena, emphasis was placed on the need to redouble efforts to achieve the greatest measure of effective Arab solidarity. This would guarantee the reinforcement of joint Arab action, help confront Zionist conspiracies and designs aimed at subjugating our Arab peoples, and provide backing for [word indistinct] the uprising of the Palestinian masses in the occupied territories.

Al-Dali added that during his visits to Syria, Kuwait and the UAE, he met brothers Faruq al-Shar, foreign minister of the fraternal Syrian Arab Republic; Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al-Sabah, foreign minister of the fraternal state of Kuwait; and Rashid Abdallah Ali al-Nuaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs of the fraternal UAE. Bilateral relations and matters of common interest were reviewed.

In concluding his statement, Brother al-Dali expressed satisfaction with the results of his visits.

Defense Minister's Trip to Syria Reported

EA1103190789 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel Salih Ubayd Ahmad, member of the Political Bureau and defense minister, left Aden this morning for the Syrian Arab Republic. He will spend several days there at the invitation of his brother, Syrian Defense Minister Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas.

In a statement to ADEN NEWS AGENCY, the brother defense minister explained that his visit to the Syrian Arab Republic was a living embodiment of the militant ties between the two brotherly countries and armies and a natural extension of the intimate brotherly meetings held to develop and strengthen bilateral relations further. He said: We leave for fraternal Syria bearing feelings of friendship and gratitude for the brotherly Syrian people. We express confidence that this visit will help maintain and reinforce the militant cohesion of our two peoples joint struggle to confront all the conspiracies of the imperialist and Zionist forces.

He added that his visit was a true reflection of our party's principled support for the heroic steadfastness of fraternal Syria and its brotherly people, and backing for the progressive course of the Syrian revolution. He explained that the visit would provide a good opportunity to discuss numerous Arab and international issues of common interest. We will study closely all the expertise and experience of military construction in Syria and benefit from it by reinforcing our military capabilities as well as military coordination and cooperation between the two brotherly armies. [passage omitted]

Returns From Syria Visit

EA1403175089 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel Salih Ubayd Ahmad, member of the Politburo and minister of defense, returned to Aden this evening from the Syrian Arab Republic, where he has been on an official visit for several days. During the visit he met with Syrian Prime Minister Brother Mahmud al-Zubi, and held discussions with his Syrian counterpart, Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas. [passage omitted]

DFLP's Hawatimah Signs Protocol, Leaves Aden

EA1103065089 Aden ANA in Arabic 1740 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Aden, 10 Mar (ANA)—Comrade Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], and the delegation accompanying him left Aden today after a visit to Democratic Yemen that lasted several days. During the visit he held a series of discussions on bilateral relations between the YSP [Yemeni Socialist Party] and the DFLP and ways of strengthening and (?developing) them, in addition to a number of issues of common interest.

In a statement to ANA, Comrade Hawatimah explained that his discussions with the YSP leadership were fruitful, positive and successful. A protocol on cooperation between the Democratic Front and the YSP in various fields of struggle was signed. He said: we have agreed on joint militant plans for developing and escalating the popular uprising and safeguarding Palestinian national unity and the right of Palestinians to decide for themselves. The situation in the Arab world, the global situation as a whole and their links with the Israeli-Arab conflict and the Palestinian cause were discussed broadly and deeply. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Iran's Jannati Arrives in Doha on Visit 13 Mar

JN1303093489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Doha, 13 Mar (WAKH)—Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, member of the Council of Guardians of the Constitution, head of the Islamic Propaganda Organization, and Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i's envoy, arrived in Doha this morning on a visit to Qatar within a regional tour. He was received upon arrival by Ahmad 'Ali Ma'rafiyah, under secretary of the Transport and Communication Ministry, and Mohammad Baqer Sakhai, Iran's ambassador in Doha.

Gives Khamene'i Message to Amir

JN1303125689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1150 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Doha, 13 Mar (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, received a written message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i. The message was conveyed by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, head of the Islamic Propaganda Organization and member of the Council of Guardians of the Constitution, during a meeting with the amir this morning.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister; and Mohammad Baqer Sakhai, Iran's ambassador to Qatar.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that the message deals with a number of issues concerning the Islamic world and the need to adopt a unified stand vis-a-vis the encroachment on the Muslims' creed and the Islamic religion. The message also deals with the topics on the agenda of the meetings of the Islamic foreign ministers, and bilateral relations and ways to promote them.

Leaves Doha for Dubayy 13 Mar

JN1303141489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1358 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Doha, 13 Mar (WAKH) — Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, member of the Council of Guardians of the Constitution, head of the Islamic Propaganda Organization, and Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i's envoy, left Doha this afternoon for Dubayy after a short visit to Qatar within a current tour of the countries in the region. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

ICO Recognition of Mujahidin Government Urged

JN1103163489 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 10 Mar 89 p 3

[Editorial: "The Kingdom and Its Pioneering Islamic Role"]

[Text] The kingdom, as has always been its custom, was the first to recognize the Afghan mujahidin government. This recognition will make a large-scale and effective contribution toward extending strong support and backing to this newly born government, as this recognition has been extended by an Islamic country that has political leverage in the Islamic, Arab, and international communities.

Besides, this recognition will also prompt several Islamic, Arab, and other states to follow suit and recognize this government, thus boosting this government's efforts to gain international legitimacy.

The kingdom's recognition of this government has a special weight, as this recognition has been extended by the country that has upheld the banner of Islam and continued to work tirelessly to vindicate Islam everywhere. Besides, the kingdom has placed all of its potentialities at the service of Islam and Muslims throughout the world.

Since the launching of the spark of jihad in Afghanistan, the kingdom has spared no effort to support and back this jihad with funds and other forms of support. Thus, the kingdom has provided the mujahidin with unlimited forms of support, opened its hospitals for the treatment of the wounded mujahidin, and hastened at all international gatherings to condemn the communist invasion, calling for the withdrawal of the invaders.

Now, all Arab and Islamic states are called upon to hasten to recognize this legal government and to back and support this government until it can seize power in Kabul and exercise its authority as a legal government chosen by the Afghan people. More pressure should be brought to bear on the communist regime to bring about its downfall without any more bloodshed.

These Arab and Islamic states must work at international fora to give the Afghan mujahidin government the seats occupied by the communist regime, which is rejected by the Afghan people. The mujahidin government is the legal government. Therefore, the communist regime must be dismissed from all international organizations; and this cannot be achieved without the solidarity and the vocal support of the Islamic nation.

We as an Islamic nation have a very important Islamic conference ahead of us—namely, the 18th session of the foreign ministers conference of the Islamic Conference Organization which will be held in a few days. We must hasten to give the Afghanistan seat to the mujahidin government and to extend a de jure recognition to this government so that we can become an example to be emulated by the remaining international organizations.

The kingdom, which has taken it upon itself to back and support the mujahidin, has not faltered for even 1 moment in providing this support. Now that the kingdom has taken the first and important step in the direction of extending the de jure recognition of the Afghan mujahidin government, all Islamic and Arab states are called upon to support this newly born government.

Crude Oil Exports to Japan Cut 30 Percent

OW1503095789 Tokyo KYODO in English 1046 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Tokyo, March 14 KYODO—Saudi Arabia has notified its Japanese term-contract customers that it will implement a 30 percent cut in crude oil shipments for April, oil industry sources said Tuesday. The reduction will be conducted on the 160,000 barrels per day imported under long-term contracts by Japanese trading houses and oil refiners, the sources said.

The move follows a series of curtailments in the Saudi crude oil supply to Japan between January and March. The kingdom has cut its crude exports to Japan by 10 percent for January shipments and implemented reductions of more than 15 percent for February and March deliveries.

The sources said Saudi Arabia seems to have decided on the latest reduction in light of slack demand seen for April. The reduction, however, is unlikely to affect crude oil prices, they said.

King Receives ‘Arafat, Other PLO Officials

LD1203231789 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2050 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 12 Mar (SPA)—King Fahd ibn ‘Abd al-‘Aziz al Sa‘ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, receives PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir ‘Arafat at his office in Yamamah Palace this evening. The meeting was attended by His Excellency ‘Ali al-Sh‘ir, minister of information; Faruq Qaddumi, member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the Political Department; Rafiq al-Natsah, ambassador to the kingdom from the State of Palestine; Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee and political adviser to Yasir ‘Arafat; Sulayman al-Sharfa, adviser to Yasir ‘Arafat on Arab Affairs; and Ahmad ‘Abd al-Rahman, the PLO's official spokesman. [passage omitted]

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir ‘Arafat arrived in Riyadh this afternoon. He was welcomed on arrival at King Khalid International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa‘ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; His Royal Highness Prince Salman ibn ‘Abd al-‘Aziz [name as received], deputy governor of the Riyadh; Rafiq al-Natsah, ambassador to the kingdom from the State of Palestine; a representative from the Royal Protocol Department; and a number of officials.

‘Arafat Departs Riyadh 12 Mar

LD1303094689 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0110 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Riyadh, 12 Mar, (SPA)—Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, Mr Yasir ‘Arafat, left Riyadh this evening [12 March] after a short visit to the kingdom during which he met King fahd ibn ‘Abd al-‘Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. He was seen off by the ambassador of Palestine to the kingdom, Mr Rafiq Shakir al-Natshah, a representative from the Royal Court protocol, and a number of officials.

King Fahd Received Message From Algerian Envoy

LD1503233789 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Riyadh, 15 Mar (SPA)—In his office today King Fahd ibn ‘Abd al-‘Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, received His Excellency Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh. He conveyed a verbal message to the king from his brother His Excellency Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. The meeting was attended by Muhammad Hasan Faqi, ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques to Algeria.

Al-Faysal Receives Moroccan, PDRY Ministers

JN1303210489 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] On the sidelines of the meetings of the 18th Islamic foreign ministers conference, His Royal Highness Prince Sa‘ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, received His Excellency Dr Abdellatif Filali, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Morocco, at his residence at the Intercontinental Hotel this evening. Attending the meeting were ‘Ali Majid al-Qabbani, ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques to the Kingdom of Morocco; and Dr Ahmed Ramzi, Morocco's ambassador to the Kingdom.

At his residence in the Intercontinental Hotel this evening his highness also received His Excellency Dr ‘Abd al-‘Aziz al-Dali, foreign minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. Attending the meeting were Muwaffaq ibn ‘Abdallah (al-Dulayqan), ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques to the PDRY; and ‘Ali ‘Abdallah (al-Bukayri), PDRY ambassador to the Kingdom [previous two titles as heard].

United Arab Emirates

U.S. Firms Offer To Help Israel Launch Rockets

JN1603085689 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 14 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that several large U.S. companies have offered a joint venture with Israel to produce satellite-launching rockets on a commercial basis. Several secret meetings between experts from these companies and from the Israeli Air Industries and the Israeli Military Industries were held to study the project. Informed diplomatic sources in London told AL-ITTIHAD that the talks between U.S. and Israeli experts began at the end of September in the wake of Israel's launching of the Ofeq-1 satellite. A number of U.S. experts have already visited the Israeli production facilities of the launch rockets. The sources added that talks now focus on developing these rockets so that they can compete with the European rocket, Ariane, on world markets.

Somali President Pays Official Visit 6 Mar

Arrives in Abu Dhabi

JN0603163989 Manama WAKH in English 1616 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, March 6 (GNA)—Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre arrived here today on an official visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

He was received by UAE President Shaykh Zayid Ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

He was also received by Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces Shaykh Khalifah Ibn Zayid and other officials.

Barre is accompanied by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Mohamed Ali Hamud, Information Minister Dr. Abdirashid Sheikh Ahmed, Presidential Advisor for Social Affairs Brig. Ismail Ahmed Ismail, and Foreign Undersecretary Ahmed Adam.

Information Minister on Visit

JN1103162289 Manama WAKH in English 1550 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, March 11 (GNA)—Somali Information Minister Dr Abdirashid Sheikh Ahmed has hailed the outcome of the talks between President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and Somali President Mohammed Siad Barre.

Addressing a press conference here today, the Somali minister said that the talks had focused on bilateral relations and means of boosting them in all fields in addition to Arab international issues of mutual concern.

Dr Abdirashid said that his country was intensifying efforts to develop its national economy and to reconstruct Somalia's northern region destroyed by the recent separatist fighting in the area.

The Somali minister urged the Arabs to make investment in Somalia in the fields of agriculture, fisheries and animal husbandry.

"Somalia has issued a law encouraging foreign and Arab investment in Somalia that provides all necessary constitutional guarantees to the investors" he said.

"The Somali Government is keen on resolving its problems with its neighbours like Ethiopia through peaceful means" he noted.

He also said that a higher ministerial committee was set up to implement the accord concluded between Somalia and Ethiopia, indicating that four provisions of the agreement were executed so far.

"The most important ones are withdrawal of troops to 15 km away from the two countries' borders, exchange of prisoners of war and restoration of diplomatic relations to ambassadorial level" he said.

Ends Visit, Departs

JN1103163889 Manama WAKH in English 1550 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Mar 11 (GNA)—Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre left today after an official visit to the UAE [United Arab Emirates]. He was seen off at Abu Dhabi airport by UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

Also present at the airport were Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, Depurty Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad, Chamberlain of the Presidential Court Shaykh Surur ibn Muhammad, Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid and other officials.

Economy Minister Meets Pakistani Counterpart

JN1203134289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 Mar (WAKH)—Sayf al-Jarwan, minister of economy and trade of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], met here at noon today with Faisal Syed Saleh, Pakistani minister of commerce, local government, and rural development, who is currently visiting Abu Dhabi.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations in the economic and trade spheres.

Al-Jarwan paid tribute to the entrenched and distinguished relations binding the UAE to Pakistan. In a statement made following the meeting, he said that the two countries will shortly sign an agreement on bilateral trade, economic, and investment exchange.

Yemen Arab Republic

Prime Minister Meets With Iran's Jannati

NC1003071289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] Ayatollah Jannati, visiting North Yemen at the head of a high-ranking delegation, met with Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani in Sanaa. During this meeting, President Khamene'i's message to the North Yemeni president on the dangerous Zionist plot against the Islamic ummah was handed to the prime minister of that country.

The prime minister of North Yemen condemned the publication of "The Satanic Verses." He pointed out: The Islamic Republic's stand on this was a source of happiness for us, and we have called on the Islamic Conference Organization to encourage a common and immediate stand by Islamic countries on this book and similar publications.

The Islamic Republic's high-ranking delegation also met with a number of leading North Yemeni clergymen and judges, namely the minister of Awqaf and guidance. The Central News Unit reports that, during this meeting, the plot by world arrogance and Zionism against the Islamic ummah and its sanctities was discussed. The two parties emphasized the need for an exchange of views among the 'ulema of the Islamic world and for the adoption of a common stand.

Iraq's Taha Yasin Ramadan Arrives in Ta'izz

JN1203132589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Ta'izz, 12 Mar (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, President Saddam Husayn's envoy to his brother Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, arrived here today.

The Iraqi presidential envoy told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY's correspondent upon arrival that he is carrying a message from President Saddam Husayn to Colonel President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih dealing with the current preparations for the meeting of the Arab Cooperation Council's [ACC] Ministerial Council that will be held in Baghdad to prepare for the ACC summit to be held in Cairo after 'Id al-Fitr. [feast marking end of Ramadan]

Taha Yasin Ramadan affirmed that there are great ambitions that require continuous meetings and efforts to achieve the Council's goals. He pointed out that procedures are still in the initial stages, but they affirm the seriousness of joint action among the Council's countries.

The Iraqi envoy described Iraqi-Yemeni relations as special and characterized by constant development, since they depend on joint understanding and the instructions of the two leaders Saddam Husayn and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to continue expansion and development in all fields.

Taha Yasin Ramadan was received by Yemen Arab Republic Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, Deputy Prime Ministers Dr Hasan Makki, and Mujahid Abu Shawarib, and a number of Yemeni officials.

Salih Receives Ramadan

JN1203161489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Ta'izz, YAR [Yemen Arab Republic], 12 Mar (INA)—President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of the YAR received here today Taha Yasin Ramadan, President Saddam Husayn's envoy, member of the Revolution Command Council, and first deputy prime minister.

The Iraqi envoy delivered a message containing President Saddam's greetings to President Salih and Iraq's pride in the personal relations between the two presidents. The message also stresses Iraq's appreciation of the distinguished relations with the YAR and the determination of the Iraqi leadership to continue serious work toward developing bilateral cooperation.

Ramadan apprised the YAR president of the ideas and formulas that the Iraqi leadership prepared for discussion in the meeting of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] ministerial committee. These emphasize the importance of expanding the activities of the ACC to cover aspects of culture, science, and services, in addition to economic cooperation, which is the basis of the ACC.

Ramadan also informed President Salih of the developments on the Arab scene and the Iraq-Iran negotiations. He stressed Iraq's principled stand, its adherence to its full rights, its rejection of partial or compromise solutions, its commitment to the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598, and its continued support of the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] until the Palestinian state is established and the legitimate rights returned to the Palestinian Arab people.

President Salih conveyed through Ramadan his greetings to President Saddam Husayn and his deep appreciation of the brotherly relations between the two presidents. He asserted the YAR's seriousness in continuing its efforts toward expanding the ever-growing relations with Iraq.

The YAR president stressed the importance of continuing meetings and coordination among officials of the ACC countries to draw the practical formulus that quickly realize the goals of the ACC, so that this can be followed by more positive and comprehensive steps that achieve the progress, development, and strength of the Arab nation.

The meeting was attended by YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani.

Leaves Ta'izz 12 Mar

JN1203181889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Brother Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, left Ta'izz today following a short visit to our country. [passage omitted]

Al-Iryani Leaves for Riyadh Islamic Conference

JN1203191889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member, left for Riyadh today leading our country's delegation to participate in the 18th annual conference of the Islamic states' foreign ministers which will be held there from 13 to 16 March.

Paper Criticizes Syrian Presence in Lebanon

JN1603112489 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, Mar. 16, INA—The Iraqi daily AL-JUMHURIYAH said that the demand of General Michel 'Awn, Lebanon's prime minister, for the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon is a demand that harmonizes with the sovereignty and independence.

In a commentary published here today the paper said that the Lebanese demand to get rid of the Syrian existence in Lebanon harmonizes with the rejection of interfering of internal affairs which is stressed by international law, the Arab League, and international organizations. The daily said that the Iraqi view always stressed on the necessity of non-using the force and armies against the Arabs and this is done by Syria in Lebanon. The newspaper called on the Arab nation to support the voice of logic in Lebanon to force the Syrian regime to withdraw its forces to ensure the continuation of the brotherly dialogue among the Lebanese factions.

AL-JUMHURIYAH paper strongly criticised the Syrian regime's forces new massacres by shelling civilian quarters in east Beirut and closing the crossing points.

UN Observer Group Commander Arrives in Baghdad

JN1503162289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA)—SFRY General Slavko Jovic, commander of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group arrived here from Tehran today. Jovic was welcomed at the airport by a representative of the higher committee for coordination with the UN observers, the SFRY general's assistant working with the Iraqi side, and the resident UN representative in Baghdad.

Pakistani Commerce Minister Continues Visit

JN1503115289 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, Mar. 15, INA—Iraqi Minister of Housing and Reconstruction Mr. Tahir Muhammad Hassun met here today with the Pakistani Minister of Trade, Industry and Local government Mr. Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat and his accompanying delegation.

The Iraqi minister gave an explanation about the development and reconstruction witnessed by Iraq as well as the campaign of reconstructing the southern Iraqi city of Basra.

The Pakistani minister expressed his country's wish to develop and activate relations with Iraq in the fields of building and construction as well as Pakistan's readiness to participate in various means of development in Iraq.

Meets With Finance Minister

JN1503133689 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, Mar. 15, INA—Mr. Hikmat 'Umar Mukhalif, Iraqi finance minister met here today with the Pakistani Minister of Trade, Industry and Local Government Mr. Faisal Hayat and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting economic and financial relations between the two countries and means of developing them were discussed.

Chadian Party Delegation Arrives on Visit

JN1503212289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA)—A delegation of the Chadian National Union for Independence and Revolution arrived here this evening for a visit of several days at the invitation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. In a statement to INA, Mahamat Nouri, political bureau member of the union said that the visit is part of efforts to enhance and consolidate relations between the two parties and countries. He added that the delegation will study the militant experience of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The delegation was welcomed by Hasan 'Ali, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the director of the Foreign Relations Department at the Ba'th Party's National Command, and the Chadian ambassador in Baghdad.

Joint Committee With Tanzania Meets in Baghdad

JN1403204589 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] The third session of the Iraqi-Tanzanian joint committee began 3 days of meetings in Baghdad this evening. The Iraqi side was headed by Tahir Muhammad Hassun, minister of housing and reconstruction; and the Tanzanian side by Mrs Amina Salim Ali, minister of state at the Foreign Ministry [title as heard].

The two sides reviewed economic and commercial relations and scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries. They also discussed the implementation of the minutes of the second session, which was held in Dar es Salaam in 1986.

The Iraqi delegation was composed of the head of the Iraqi fund for foreign development; representatives of the ministries of foreign affairs, trade, and housing and reconstruction; and Iraqi central bank representatives.

The Tanzanian delegation included Mrs Rafiqah Mabruk, minister of state at the Prime Ministry of Zanzibar, [title as heard] and representatives of the ministries of foreign relations and trade.

Ibrahim Meets With Kurdish Officials in Irbil

JN1303193489 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], met in the Governorate of Irbil today with Ahmad 'Abd al-Qadir al-Naqshabandi, chairman of the Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region; and Sirwan 'Abdallah al-Jaf, chairman of the Executive Council.

During the meeting, 'Izzat Ibrahim gave instructions to promote both councils in conformity with the aspirations of the leadership of the [Arab Socialist Ba'th] party and the revolution. He stressed President leader Saddam Husayn's interest in these two institutions. The RCC vice chairman hailed the extraordinary efforts of the institutions of the Autonomous Region to complete projects and render services to citizens at all levels in accordance with the leadership's instructions to provide a decent life for the masses.

Ahmad 'Abd al-Qadir al-Naqshabandi and Sirwan 'Abdallah al-Jaf reviewed the activities of the legislative and executive councils in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region.

Kurdish Party Congress Concludes 15 Mar

JN1603113689 Baghdad INA in English 1035 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] Irbil, North Iraq, Mar. 16, INA—The Kurdistan Revolutionary Party stressed that the historic 11th March declaration was the outcome of magnificent accomplishments realized by the 17th-July revolution and embodied the genuine human aspect of the leader party, the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party [ABSP] toward the Kurdish people in the autonomous rule area.

Concluding its 12th national congress here yesterday, the party said that alliance with the ABSP is principled and that of destiny based on realizing the national interests of the Iraqi people and consecrating the collective course of action within the frame of the national front. The conference elected a party secretary and eight members of the central committee in addition to four candidate members. The party central committee held a meeting during which five members of the politburo were elected.

Defense Minister Inspects III Army Corps

JN1503205889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA)—Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister, inspected the heroic III Army Corps sector this morning. The deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces met with several commanders and commanding officers. The sector combatants chanted slogans expressing their deep love for, and unfaltering allegiance to, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, and expressed their great pride in his excellency the president's unique leadership, the leadership that forged peace and brought about victory.

Arens Comments Further on Talks With Baker, Bush

TA1503202189 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Interview With Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Nisim Mish'al—videorecorded in Washington]

[Text] [Mish'al] Sir, James Baker said yesterday that if Israel does not hold meaningful talks with representatives of the territories, it may have to negotiate with the PLO. What is your response to that?

[Arens] My reaction, and I think that of every Israeli, is that we are looking for ideas that meet three conditions: First, to advance the peace process; second, to assure the State of Israel's security interests; and third, to reach an agreement on these points between Israel and the United States. Baker's idea, if it is an idea, does not meet any of these conditions. It will not advance peace, it does not assure the State of Israel's interests, and agreement cannot be achieved on this idea between the United States and ourselves.

[Mish'al] Sir, this is the first time that the administration has referred to the possibility of talks with the PLO. Would you say that we are facing friction with the United States?

[Arens] That is certainly not my impression from my talks here. The idea was not raised in my talks either with the secretary of state or with the President. I believe that there is a general agreement—I found this was true both with the President and the secretary of state—that the only chance to further the peace process in the region is if it is based on the United States and Israel operating together and in coordination.

[Mish'al] Do you regard Baker's remarks as signaling a change in this agreement?

[Arens] No, I do not think so. I think it was made in response to a question. I would be very surprised if it turns out that the United States would decide in the future to act contrary to Israel's positions. I think they understand very well that such an action would not lead anywhere.

[Mish'al] Would you view it as a tendency by the administration to push us slowly into a dialogue with the PLO in accordance with U.S. wishes?

[Arens] I do not think there is an attempt here to push us, even if the reason is that they know that pushing will not help.

[Mish'al] President Bush said that he is expecting Prime Minister Shamir to bring new ideas with him. In your view, what sort of ideas is the administration expecting?

[Arens] Had they known what sort of ideas they were expecting, I suppose they would have told us. There is a feeling of frustration here, just as there is in Israel, over the fact that the peace process is not progressing. Ten years have passed since we signed the peace agreement with Egypt, and there has not been any significant progress. People are simply thirsty for progress.

[Mish'al] Perhaps I should ask the question differently. Will the prime minister be coming here to Washington with new ideas, with some sort of plan?

[Arens] The prime minister will come with ideas and initiatives. I do not know if we should expect to suddenly hear something that has never been heard before, something nobody has even imagined before. I believe that we have been involved in the Middle East problem, the Middle East process, for so long that I do not know if it is reasonable to expect something to crop up which none of us even thought of before. The prime minister will come with his ideas and positions, however, whose aim is to advance the process; I believe that they can advance the process.

[Mish'al] Thank you.

Netanyahu Sees 'Contradiction' in U.S. Stand

TA1603082589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Mikha Friedman—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning, Deputy Foreign Minister Netanyahu.

[Netanyahu] Good morning.

[Friedman] So, the cat is finally out of the bag. The United States is preparing the PLO to assume the status of—as Baker put it—a legitimate and meaningful partner for direct peace negotiations. What is your reaction to these straightforward remarks by the U.S. secretary of state?

[Netanyahu] First of all, I did not directly hear these remarks, nor have I seen the exact quotations. In any case, I believe that the foreign minister's statements clearly outline the main problem here. If you wish to advance the peace process—and Israel and the United States are in agreement on the need to advance the process—together with moderate Palestinians and not with the PLO, if you are willing to accept this point of departure, you cannot do so by saying: If things do not work out with you, we will turn to the PLO. I believe that faced with such a situation, no intelligent Palestinian would join the process. He would either bide his time and continue to refuse, so that eventually the PLO would take over the negotiations, or he would be too scared to enter negotiations from the outset. That is why this statement—if it has been correctly quoted—contains an inherent contradiction.

[Friedman] Yes, but there is a possibility that the United States is presenting its own assessment of the reality of the situation, saying: We truly do not believe that the first stage of talks with moderate Palestinians from the territories will yield results. That is why we are already showing you the road ahead. Be prepared.

[Netanyahu] There are two points to respond to here. First, if you sincerely believe that there is room for the moderates, this is a strange way of conducting negotiations. You would never enter negotiations if you were told: Either you accept our moderate proposals, or we will accept your extreme demands. This is no way to handle anything. On the other hand, in response to your question of whether the United States has already abandoned the notion of the stage of pursuing the moderates, I do not think this is the case. I believe that the basic choice facing us—and both we and the Americans are giving this a great deal of thought—is between the moderates and the radicals. There is no doubt that we want to advance a sane, moderate, and controlled process. For this we need sane, moderate people. We know very well that the PLO has not changed its basic stand. Even in meetings with Israelis and in statements for external consumption, it finds it difficult to say that it has. It continues to cling to the theory of stages and continues to dispatch terror squads; the seventh such infiltration attempt was foiled yesterday. So in essence, the PLO has not changed at all.

There are, however, alternative partners to be found for a reasonable process. If we start off by saying that such partners are out of the question and that we might as well turn to the extremists because this stage will fail, we hurt our chances of finding the first kind of partners to begin with.

[Friedman] Can you give us any indication of who these partners from the territories are? Have there been any attempts to locate them? Are there any who have already expressed willingness to talk to us, despite 'Arafat?

[Netanyahu] Continuous efforts are being made to that end. Let there be no doubt: Such men do exist. I can tell you that I spoke to Palestinians in Gaza several days ago. When in a group, they say: Only the PLO. In one-on-one meetings, however, you can hear a different tune. Not from everyone, of course, but such people do exist. Naturally, all people have their share of moderates and extremists. These moderate elements take stock of the reality surrounding them. If they believe that the political process itself will lead to victory for the extremists, they will never enter it. Hence the inherent contradiction in the U.S. position, as it was quoted.

[Friedman] Let me read to you from HA'ARETZ. This is a quote by senior intelligence sources, as they are referred to by this newspaper, assessing that the United States will not stop the dialogue with the PLO, that U.S. pressure on us will increase if the uprising is not stopped soon and if no political solution acceptable to all the parties is found, and pointing to a substantial change in the PLO's stand on peaceful solutions for the Middle Eastern conflict. Are you familiar with these assessments? Do you accept them?

[Netanyahu] I saw various intelligence assessments, not necessarily in that direction. But I must tell you that the main question facing us, if we really want to advance toward a practical and moderate solution, is whether or not there are islands of sanity within the Arab world—and I believe there are—because what the PLO is offering is unacceptable. It speaks of eliminating the State of Israel in two stages. Even if it dresses it up by making its public statements more moderate, its essence remains the same. This is not a basis for a solution. The basis would be pragmatic steps in the territories, accompanied by political efforts outside them that would advance the peace process. This is our intention. We believe that this is also the United States' intention. We hope that we will be able to pursue the practical way of advancing the peace process in agreement and understanding with the United States.

[Friedman] Mr Netanyahu, thank you.

[Netanyahu] Thank you.

'Intelligence Sources' See Rising U.S. Pressure

TA1603102989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Mar 89 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Intelligence sources are unanimous in their belief that the United States will not stop its dialogue with the PLO. Moreover, it will demand from Israel more practical proposals than those raised so far, with an eye to reaching a settlement with the Palestinians.

This was the assessment voiced by senior defense sources in yesterday's Inner Cabinet session. They foresee mounting U.S. pressure, particularly if a way to overcome the intifadah [uprising] and a political solution acceptable to all sides are not found soon. On the basis of the evaluations reported in the meeting, ministers described Israel's prospects on the international arena in the near future as "grim."

All recent intelligence assessments dealing with the PLO attest to a real change in the organization's positions, and they only differ on the question of 'Arafat's ability to attain a broad consensus for his position and for additional concessions, particularly concerning negotiations with Israel over an interim agreement in the territories.

Rabin 'Flagrantly' Rejects U.S. School Request

TA1603125389 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 16 Mar 89 pp 1, 2

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar and Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Flagrantly dismissing the U.S. request on the matter, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has decided not to take unilateral measures to alleviate the situation of the residents of the territories. Yesterday he ordered the Civil Administration to postpone the reopening of schools in the West Bank. [passage omitted]

Preparations for the resumption of the school year in the West Bank began a short time ago, unrelated to the international contacts. A meeting was held between Brigadier General Shay Erez, head of the Civil Administration in Samaria, and heads of Arab chambers of education. According to the original plan, the school year was to resume this week. [passage omitted]

Pollards' Request for Citizenship Rejected

TA1503201689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Anne and Jonathan Pollard's request for Israeli citizenship has been rejected. Amnon Dror, one of the leaders of the public council for the Pollards, expressed sorrow at Interior Minister Arye Der'i's decision. He said that in his opinion the rejection of the request should not be seen as the taking of a position by the government toward the Pollards.

Shamir Presents 'Plan' for Mideast Solution

TA1603122989 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 16 Mar 89 pp 1, 2

[ITIM report]

[Text] "We will neither rest nor sit still until we find people among the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza ready to join delegations from our neighboring countries, Egypt and Jordan, in order to conduct a direct dialogue on peace. As soon as this dialogue is launched and we have direct negotiations, our first objective will be an interim arrangement." These remarks by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir are contained in a message of congratulations he sent last night to the annual banquet of the Friends of the No'am Educational Institute held at the Gan Oranim reception hall in Tel Aviv.

In his message, the prime minister outlined his plan for a solution in the region. According to him, a transition period is required for two main reasons: in order to reach a permanent arrangement and in order to examine all the issues that require an evaluation of security, such as coexistence and other national interests. During this period, the Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza would live without a military government and would run their own affairs. At the same time, an Israeli security presence would be maintained, and other arrangements would be made to safeguard the vital interests of the State of Israel.

The nature of the permanent solution would be examined toward the end of the transition period, on the basis of the experience acquired during that period and an assessment of the risks. This is the logic underlying the Camp David accords. In order to reach an agreement, there must be a consensus within the Israeli establishment. Under current political conditions, such a consensus can definitely be reached as far as an interim arrangement is concerned. There are differences of opinion, however, between the major political blocs, as well as in the general public, regarding the permanent solution. There is no sense in putting the cart before the horse. We hope all the pertinent parties in the world and in Israel are aware of this fact, the prime minister writes in his message.

The prime minister adds that Israel is eager to expand the circle of peace. This is not a question of outside pressure. This is our wish for our sake and the sake of our children. We reject the status quo, because peace has not yet been attained. Nevertheless, in order to make peace, we need interlocutors rather than enemies who want to annihilate us and who resort to sweet talk to throw sand in people's eyes.

As for Israel's fundamental position, the prime minister writes in his message, we must make full use of the things that unite us and do away with those that drive us apart. The government's basic guidelines enable us to work together, because they state that the government will continue to view the pursuit of peace as its paramount concern and that Israel will continue to take action to further the peace process based on the Camp David accords and will call on Jordan to launch peace negotiations and on the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza to take part in determining their future.

"The no's are also spelled out," the prime minister writes in his message: Israel will object to the establishment of an additional Palestinian state in the Gaza Strip and on the territory between Israel and Jordan and will not negotiate with the PLO.

All these, the prime minister writes in his message, provide solid and sufficient range for an operational government policy. We must work together to formulate and conduct a policy in this spirit. I wholeheartedly believe that this is vital and possible. "In this spirit, I will continue to work with all the pertinent parties, with the U.S. Government and and other friends around the world," Mr Shamir concludes his message.

Shamir, Rabin Agree on Setting Up 8 Settlements

TA1603091789 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Mar 89 p 1

[Report by party affairs correspondent Ilan Shehori]

[Text] In the last few days, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin have reached an understanding whereby all eight settlements agreed upon in the Likud-Labor Party coalition agreement will be established in the course of this year according to a predetermined timetable, with two of them being set up before the prime minister's departure for the United States at the beginning of April.

Shamir reportedly wants to prove that there is no connection between the establishment of additional settlements in the West Bank and the attempts to attain peace arrangements in the region, which include his upcoming talks in the United States.

The talk between Shamir and Rabin is reported to have taken place at the beginning of the week. Rabin conceded that the agreement signed by the Labor Party should be honored and that the establishment of the eight settlements at this time is called for by the coalition agreement.

As can be recalled, Vice Prime Minister and Finance Minister Shim'on Peres said yesterday that he does not think this is the right time to set up new settlements and that he will demand a new Cabinet debate on the matter in view of the financial problems and the political considerations, despite the fact that it is included in the coalition agreement between the Likud and the Alignment.

Groundwork on the site of Talmon, a new settlement scheduled to be established west of Ramallah, began yesterday. Bulldozers began breaking the ground, but had to stop because of the rainy weather. Work is scheduled to resume today. [In a report by Joshua Brilliant on page 2, Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 16 March writes: "Jewish residents of the West Bank yesterday moved to a rocky hilltop eight kilometres northwest of Ramallah and established the first new settlement in years. Although they acted with government approval, it was not clear when, or to what extent, the government will help them. Yesterday they relied on their own financial resources, Finance Minister Shim'on Peres insisting that he had no money for new settlements and that he did not think he ought to find any." The report goes on to say that "the World Zionist Organization has refused to assume responsibility for Talmon, maintaining that its funds were needed for more important projects," while "the Housing Ministry said it would not budge before the Treasury assigned it the necessary funds." But "Gush Emunim's settlement movement, Amana, and the Mate Binyamin Regional Council have undertaken to cover Talmon's initial costs."]

Egyptian Ambassador on Chemical Weapons, Peace

JN1603165689 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1545 GMT 16 Mar 89

[From the "With The Events" Program]

[Text] We begin with the statements made by Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni, who said that if Israel accepts the international conference and the principle of territory for peace, then a meeting between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will be fruitful. Basyuni's statements came in a comprehensive interview, which will be broadcast in full on 26 March, the 10th anniversary for signing of peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

[Begin recording] [First unidentified reporter] Mr Ambassador, will the road also be paved for a summit meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir?

[Basyuni] Actually, meetings are not an end in themselves. The objective is what these meetings will achieve; if a meeting will lead to positive results, then, undoubtedly, meetings will be worthwhile. Therefore, we are in the stage of preparation so that there will be something new that can be the basis of holding the meeting. For example, the whole world is talking about convening an international conference for peace. If the Israeli side is prepared for this subject and for achieving peace on the basis of the principle of territory for peace and on the basis of 242, which means territory for peace, then, undoubtedly, the meeting will be fruitful. If it also means the application of this [resolution] on all the territories, including the Golan, the West Bank, and Gaza, and not on Sinai alone, then this also means the meeting will be worthwhile and fruitful.

[Second unidentified reporter] We talk much about peace in Egypt, and also in Israel. However, there are reports circulating about Egypt's development of nuclear weapons. Do you think that developing chemical weapons at the current time is the issue of the hour?

[Basyuni] I am surprised that this subject has been raised at this time. While we are heading toward the peace process, these reports are circulating. I like to affirm—in an official capacity and in my capacity as a representative for the Arab Republic of Egypt and as its ambassador in Israel—I like to affirm that Egypt does not have chemical weapons and does not produce such weapons.

[Third unidentified reporter] Yesterday, in Tabah, we heard calls: Tabah has returned. Palestine will return soon. How do you comment on this subject?

[Basyuni] Undoubtedly, as I said, the return of Tabah is a positive step. The calls you heard mean that a solution must be found for the Palestine question. We have signed a peace treaty with Israel. Israel is an established reality. When we talk, we talk about the occupied territories—that is the West Bank and Gaza Strip. However, we signed a peace treaty with Israel, and we respect our international commitments. [end recording]

Peres Sees Jordan as 'Still in the Picture'

TA1603133589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said that Yasir 'Arafat must let the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip represent themselves. He said that the

PLO leader has still not decided whether he represents all the Palestinians. Jordan is therefore still in the picture, since Palestinians live there as well. Minister Peres stressed that Israel is prepared for a territorial compromise, but will not agree to terrorism.

Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Minister Peres made his remarks to Social Democratic party leaders from different countries who are visiting Israel.

Soviet Jewish Immigration Rate Reported

TA1603162389 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 16 Mar 89

[Text] Absorption Minister Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz, who was recently in Vienna to study the issue of Soviet Jewish "dropouts," was informed that 2,226 Jews left the USSR in February, and that 332 of them immigrated to Israel. Between 1.3-13.3.89, 1,641 Jews departed from the Soviet Union, and 60 of them immigrated to Israel. This constitutes a 97 percent "drop-out" rate.

Travel Restrictions Lifted on 'Arafat Supporters

TA1603124589 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 16 Mar 89 p 1

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] The Civil Administration has lifted the restrictions on foreign travel that had been imposed on 'Arafat supporters in the territories and communist figures such as Bashir Al-Barghuthi. In the past, Israel had explained the ban by saying that when they leave Israel's borders, 'Arafat supporters hold contacts with the PLO. The current travel permit means that Israel is seeking to establish contact with the PLO through 'Arafat supporters in the territories.

Al-Barghuthi is the editor of the East Jerusalem weekly AL-TALI'AH. He had not been allowed to travel overseas for 10 years.

Others who have been given permission to travel abroad include Faysal al-Husayni, director of the Institute of Arab Studies in East Jerusalem; Radwan Abu 'Ayyash, head of the Arab Journalists Association; and journalist Ziyad Abu Zayyad.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

13 Wounded 15 Mar

TA1603120489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Mar 89 pp 1, 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The territories were quieter than usual yesterday, with scattered clashes reported. However, 13 Palestinians were reported shot and slightly wounded.

In the Khan Yunus refugee camp, under curfew, three people were shot and wounded, according to Palestinian sources. In Rafah refugee camp two Palestinians were wounded, after a five-day curfew was lifted.

In the West Bank, there were reports of five Palestinians slightly wounded in Nabulus, Tulkarm, Janin, Husan, and Sinjil.

In Kafr Dan, near Janin, the civil administration destroyed several illegally-built homes. Two were wounded in a clash resulting from the demolitions.

Homes of 'Terrorists' Sealed

TA1603101089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] Over the past 24 hours, Israel Defense Forces [IDF] have demolished and sealed houses in Gaza belonging to terrorists who were members of the squads that were recently uncovered.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that in the Tufah neighborhood in Gaza, the IDF demolished the home of three brothers who headed a Fatah squad that murdered a nurse in a Gaza hospital and tried to assassinate another member of the hospital staff because they were suspected of working for Israel. Four rooms belonging to brothers who were members of that squad were sealed in the same neighborhood. In the Jurun neighborhood of the Al-Shati' refugee camp in Gaza, the IDF demolished the home of Attorney Ibrahim Abu Murr. He headed a group that belonged to the Islamic Jihad and threw hand grenades at IDF soldiers.

Two rooms belonging to a youth who headed a popular committee in Gaza and threw a firebomb at the Gaza police station were also demolished.

AL-FAJR Editor Sentenced

TA1603151689 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 15 Mar 89 pp 1, 11

[Text] Jerusalem—The Lod military court yesterday issued a 2-year prison sentence and a 2-year suspended sentence against our colleague, AL-FAJR editor Talal 'Abd al-Jabbar Abu 'Afifa, 36, from the Shu'fat refugee camp, on charges of membership in the "Fatah" movement and of organizing strike forces in the camp.

The court's verdict was approved by two judges, while the third demanded that the sentence be from 1 to 1 and ½ years only. Hence, Abu 'Afifa's lawyer has decided to file an appeal against the verdict.

It is worth noting that Abu 'Afifa was arrested at his home last August.

Radio Decries Al-Sa'ih Remarks on 'Self-Defense'
JN1403143889 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1245 GMT 14 Mar 89

[From the "Brevity is the Soul of Wit" program by Sha'ul Menashe]

[Text] The different types of fedayeen operations will continue, because they are legitimate self-defense operations. This is what Palestine National Council [PNC] Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih declared in an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper, AL-ANBA', on the 6th of the current month.

The leaders of the PLO could call the violent acts they practice different names, such as heroism, self-sacrifice, etc. However, these names will not change the nature and goals of these actions. They are terrorist, saboteur acts, since the saboteurs attempt to infiltrate through the borders, attack civilian targets, kill civilians, and hold them as hostages.

The statements of Al-Sa'ih and the likes of him in the PLO indicate that 'Arafat's and the PNC's pledges to stop and denounce violence are dishonest and untrue. In reality, they are doing the opposite of what they pledge to do.

The obvious and sure thing is that Israel will not sit with its hands folded in the face of the terrorism directed towards it. Hitting the Habash and Hawatimah headquarters in Lebanon from which the saboteurs operate is a policy to combat terrorism that Al-Sa'ih terms legitimate self-defense.

Radio Comments on Jordan, Syria Economic Crises
JN1403144989 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1245 GMT 14 Mar 89

[From the "Brevity is the Soul of Wit" program by Sha'ul Menashe]

[Text] Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i indicated that the economic crisis in Jordan is a result of the fact that some Arab countries did not honor their financial commitments to Jordan.

On this issue, it should be mentioned that Jordan has received the last batch of Saudi aid for the year 1988, which amounted to $59.5 million.

Jordan has received the aid since 1978—the same goes for Syria—under the pretext that they are two states in confrontation with Israel.

The time has come for the leaders of these two countries to tell the truth, which is that both Jordan and Syria need aid from the Arab countries to patch up the financial deficit and provide a piece of bread. Enough cheating, deception, and make-believe with the slogans of confrontation, the front line of defense, etc.

In case Jordan's and Syria's rulers tell the truth on this, perhaps the rich Arabs would respond and offer some of what God has offered them.

Husayn Statement on Israeli Referendum 'Mistake'
JN1203164089 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1245 GMT 12 Mar 89

[From "Brevity Is the Soul of Wit" program by Sha'ul Menashe]

[Text] How many Israelis seek peace? King Husayn says that 54 percent of Israelis prefer peace as shown in a referendum.

It seems that King Husayn has made an unintentional mistake. This is because the referendum that was conducted did not show that 54 percent of Israelis prefer peace. In fact, this percentage is related to those who prefer direct negotiations with the PLO in accordance with indispensable conditions. These conditions are that the PLO should stop acts of terrorism, cancel the charter calling for the destruction of Israel, and stop disturbances in the territories.

However, regarding the percentage of Israelis who want peace, we stress to his majesty that it is not 54 percent, but 100 percent.

Lack of Press Freedom in Jordan Examined
JN0303191589 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 3 Mar 89

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Early in 1985, Jordan's Information Minister at the time Layla Sharaf resigned her post. In her letter of resignation, she gave the following two major reasons: She wanted to dramatize her protest over restricting the freedom of an already straitjacketed press. Layla Sharaf was also unhappy about the misinformation and news blackouts, as well as press subordination to the government in office, and singing the praises of whatever measures and decisions are made by King Husayn or his executive.

Questions that might arise: Has the Jordanian Government shifted its position on press freedom in the country? Has the Jordanian press undergone any change since Layla Sharaf's resignation 4 years back? Observers of the Jordanian press scene will inevitably say no. There has not been any appreciable change. If anything, things have changed for the worse. Six months ago, the Jordanian Government disbanded the boards of the country's three press establishments and replaced them with new governing bodies to run them for 2 years. The Jordanian Government was reported this week to have decided to take control of at least 51 percent of the stock of the AL-RA'Y and AL-DUSTUR newspapers. This week, a majority of the shareholders sold their interest.

With this last measure, which also affects the English language JORDAN TIMES, the Jordanian Government has thus completed its control over the press in Jordan. As for SAWT AL-SHA'B, the daily is government-owned anyway. It also owns the television and radio stations and PETRA-JNA.

It might be suggested here that there is nothing strange about the Jordanian Government's measures; Jordan being part of the general Arab picture as far as freedom of the press goes. It might also be suggested that the underlying malaise of press freedom in Jordan and the vast majority of the Arab states is the absence of truly democratic traditions. This is true, up to a point. The truth is that, by and large, Arab rulers deny the press freedom of expression on all that has to do with them and their regimes, and give it a carte blanche to lie and make up and falsify stories on all that has anything to do with Israel and the Israeli people. Not to mention the freedom to incite hatred between the Arab and Jewish peoples.

Gush Emunim Elects New Secretary General

TA1403110789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Excerpt] The Gush Emunim Movement has elected Yitzhaq Armoni from Ramat Magshimim as its new secretary general. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the post had been vacant for approximately 1 year, following the resignation of former Secretary General Daniyela Weiss. Gush Emunim decided to fill the post to help organize the movement's campaign against the Peace Now Movement and to prepare itself for political developments. [passage omitted]

15 Percent Drop Reported in Feb Tourism

TA0803100089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Mar 89 p 8

[Report by Greer Fay Cashman]

[Text] The number of tourist arrivals was down 15 percent last month, compared with February 1988, when 110,600 tourists entered the country, figures released yesterday by the Ministry of Tourism show.

The ministry attributed the drop to the fact that there were 29 days in February last year and only 28 this year.

Air travel apparently fared worse than tourism in general, with an 18 percent drop from a year earlier. Of the 94,300 tourists, 71,500 came by air. There was also a decline in overland travel. However, sea travel showed a 14 percent increase, although that included members of the U.S. Sixth Fleet as well as a 54-percent increase in cruise visitors. Cruise visitors last month numbered 2,000.

Unemployment Up 78 Percent From Feb 1988

TA0303081889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Mar 89 p 16

[Report by Jeff Black]

[Text] The number of first-time unemployment benefit recipients hit a record high last month of 9,400. This figure is a 31 percent increase in new recipients compared with January and a 20 percent rise over the previous record, 7,820 people, reached in December last year.

National Insurance Institute figures released yesterday show that in all, 38,800 people received unemployment pay last month, a 14 percent increase compared with January.

In a comparison with February 1988, last month's figures show a 78 percent increase in the total number of benefit recipients, while the number of first-time claimants doubled.

Drug Trafficking Volume Put at 2 Billion Shekels

TA0503134789 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 5 Mar 89 p 7

[Report by Yig'al Qotzer]

[Text] About 40,000 Israelis, including 7,000 Haifa area residents, are addicted to drugs. The number of drug users stands at about 200,000, including 35,000 in the Haifa area. This data is part of the findings amassed by the Society for the Treatment of Drug Victims. The survey was made in an attempt to promote the society's demand for halfway houses for drug patients. Their findings further indicate that the volume of drug trafficking reaches 2 billion shekels annually, and that 80 percent of the prison inmates in Israel are either drug addicts or users.

Drug Seizure Data, Detaining of Suspects

TA1103172189

[Editorial report] Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 8 March in a page 18 report by Yo'av Aviv provides police data on drug seizures, saying that "in 1988, the police confiscated 1,353 kg of hashish compared to only 120 kg in 1987. They also confiscated 32.5 kg of heroin compared to 11 kg the previous year." "The Northern District this year opened 744 files against drug dealers, a 12-percent increase over last year."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 6 March reports that: "The police raided a large drug station in Yafo and detained seven suspects. They were found in possession of 19 grams of heroin."

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1430 GMT on 9 March reports that on 8 March "the police detained four people suspected of drug dealing in Beersheba. They also confiscated 3 kg of hashish and 49 grams of heroin."

King Husayn Confers With UK Foreign Secretary
JN1503210389 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] His majesty the king conferred in London this afternoon with the Foreign Minister the Secretary [as heard] Sir Geoffrey Howe. Discussions at the meeting dealt with the Middle East issue and the efforts being made to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East. The meeting was attended by the Prime Minister Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i and the Chief of the Royal Court Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir.

Women Stage Sit-In To Support Palestinians
JN0903083289 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Mar 89 pp 15, 20

[By Layla Dib]

[Text] A number of women staged a sit-in at the office of the International Committee of the Red Cross yesterday, International Women's Day, in solidarity with Palestinian women in the occupied territories and with those staging a sit-in there.

The women appealed to the world to exert pressure on Israel to stop its oppressive practices, which include murder and the imprisonment of Arab citizens in occupied Palestine.

Meanwhile, the Society of Arab Women in Jordan addressed an appeal to the UN secretary general, the Commission on Human Rights, and international women's organizations.

The appeal calls on the world to move swiftly to halt the ugly Israeli crimes, which are becoming very serious. The women urged all forms of support for the blessed Palestinian intifadah (uprising).

The appeal stressed the need to make every effort to convene an international conference, with the participation of all concerned parties, to guarantee the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people and stabilize the volatile situation in the region.

Paper Rebuts Arens on 'Jordanian Option'
JN1603083189 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Mar 89 p 1

[Editorial: "The Jordanian Option...Sterile Talk"]

[Text] Moshe Arens' comments in Washington about the Jordanian option are outdated and sterile. The same may also be said of his attempt to create a rift between the PLO and Jordan. His return to this theme shows that Arens still clings to useless illusions.

Jordan aborted the so-called Jordanian option—for good—from the moment the Israeli aggressors began promoting it. Jordan, the first to understand and warn against its evil intent, was also the first to say that it would not act as a proxy or deputy for the PLO in the peace process. Jordan provided a practical demonstration of this when it announced the disengagement of ties with the West Bank and Gaza and by being among the first to recognize the independent Palestinian state. Moreover, Jordan was the first to defend the intifadah [uprising] in the international arena as a revolution for liberation and to reinforce the conviction that the intifadah is not terrorism. Furthermore, Jordan argued that its legitimacy could not be questioned because the intifadah is based on the right to defend one's self and one's land, which is acknowledged by international norms.

In light of these facts, it is clear that Jordan's rejection of the so-called Jordanian option is based on unalterable principles. Arens' pronouncement that Jordan and the Palestinians in the occupied territories constitute the legitimate party in a dialogue with Israel must be seen as an intrigue of the kind that Israeli officials use every now and then. So must Arens' false rumors on relations between Jordan and the PLO. Through its repeated calls on U.S. administrations to hold a dialogue with the PLO, Jordan has exposed the fallacy of Arens' statements. Jordan was also the first to call for an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations with the participation of the Security Council's permanent member states and all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the PLO.

Arens' talk about the Jordanian option will not put the ball, now in the Israeli court, into ours. The world is fully convinced that the international conference is the only way to bring about a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestine question and to establish genuine peace in the region. Furthermore, the U.S. Administration has itself hinted to Arens that talks between Israel and the PLO are now necessary. This development clearly underlines the fact that the ball is still in the Israeli court and that Arens' talk about the Jordanian option amounts to nothing but dreams and illusions.

Paper Views Bush-U.S. Jewish Leaders Meeting
JN1203084289 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Mar 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Some Explanation Needed"]

[Text] The Arab world would welcome any meeting between U.S. President George Bush and American Jewish leaders if the purpose is to win their support for a durable and just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflicts.

Arab comfort and satisfaction with any such dialogue between the U.S. Government and the American Jewish community would also be more complete if the U.S. President invites representatives of the other side to hear them out. Singling out the Jewish community in America as partners in the American articulation of Washington's policy toward the Middle East strikes the Arab side, whether in America or in the Middle East, as overtly unfair and unbalanced.

But be that as it may, the words and policy statement that were attributed to President George Bush during his meetings with two Jewish American delegations—one from the Republican Party's National Jewish Coalition and the other from the Conference of Presidents of major American Jewish Organisations—give the Arab World considerable concern. The American President has been quoted by the attending Jewish leaders as ruling out any possiblity of applying pressure on Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir when he visits Washington and the White House next month. One would pause here to inquire whether Washington has subscribed to the philosophy of "friendly persuasion" in dealing with the tough and intransigent Israeli prime minister. But that is not all. What worried the Arabs everywhere is the assurance given to the Jewish leaders that Washington will not acquiesce to an Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders or the creation of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. And for dessert, the U.S. President has been quoted as assuring Tel Aviv that Washington is totally committed to maintaining Israel's qualitative military edge over any combination of Arab military forces. As if all this is not enough, American Jewish leaders emerged from the meeting with the distinct message that Washington hopes to even strenthen its strategic cooperation with Israel.

To be fair, one must wait for the official American version on the meeting before making final judgements. On the face of it, the picture emerging from the meetings in question is alarming. Washington would be well advised to offer its own version of what exactly has transpired between President George Bush and the American Jewish leaders. There is plenty of room to suspect a deliberate attempt to disseminate disinformation by the Israeli and Jewish side in order to broaden the cleavage between the U.S. and the Arab World. The answer to all such queries must await the full elucidation of the American position on the Arab-Israeli conflicts. Hopefully this could be done soon.

Saudi Arabia Grants 33.5 Million Riyal Loan

JN1603083589 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Mar 89 p 1

[By Muhammad al-Majali]

[Text] Riyadh—Jordanian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Dr Nasir al-Batayinah signed an agreement in Riyadh yesterday under which the Saudi Development Fund will grant a loan of 33.5 million Saudi riyals to the Irbid Industrial Estate project.

The loan was also signed by the fund's director, Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Suqayr.

EC Announces Continued Economic Support

JN1003132989 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] Amman—The head of an EC delegation in Amman stated that the 12 EC countries will continue their economic support for Jordan. He praised the government's economic policy, which he described as helping to create a national economy in line with Jordan's strategy to increase production through self-reliance and the full exploitation of national resources.

In an interview with the PETRA news agency today, he discussed the economic development achieved by Jordan in a short period. He affirmed that he is optimistic about the progress of the Jordanian economy and its ability to overcome any obstacle because of the soundness of the Jordanian Government's official economic policy and its new program to overcome current difficulties.

He said that the EC has established an international investment program, through which it will give financial and technical aid to 39 developing countries, including Jordan, to develop their national economies.

Under this program, the EC will give loans, financial facilities, and technical aid to financial institutions; chambers of commerce; professional organizations; government agencies; and companies wishing to set up joint projects with agencies, organizations, or companies in EC countries.

This program includes, in the Mediterranean basin, Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Turkey, Yugoslavia, and Cyprus. It also includes 16 Latin American and 11 Asian countries.

FRG Loan Agreement Signed

JN1303213789 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Jordan and the Federal Republic of West Germany signed an agreement at the Ministry of Planning today whereby the West German Government will give Jordan a 4.4 million Deutsche mark loan to finance the Al-Shidiyah phosphate mine. The project is being implemented by the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company. The loan is part of the financial aid given by West Germany to finance development projects in Jordan.

Four notes on West German technical aid to four Jordanian projects were also signed totalling 7.4 million Deutsche marks. The first concerns the setting up of a special institution for the training and qualification of hospital technicians. The note provides for the assignment of West German experts as well as the supply of technical equipment. The second note provides for assistance by West Germany in training nursing staff and midwives to improve nursing standards in hospitals in southern Jordan. According to the third note, the West German Government will provide the Government of Jordan with the necessary funds to finance studies in Jordan supervised by West German experts. And the fourth note outlines cooperation between the two governments in seed production to ensure that high quality wheat and barley seeds are produced. The agreement and the four notes were signed by the Minister of Planning Dr Tahir Kan'an and the Ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany to Jordan Dr Herwig Bartels.

Lubrani Speaks on Deployment of Army in South

NC1003170989 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] In a television interview today, Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Israeli activity in Lebanon, said he welcomed the Lebanese Army in the South if its arrival would stop terrorist activity in the area. Otherwise, Lubrani warned, this Army would be treated like other hostile groups in the South.

Concerning the recent incident between the Israeli forces and the Norwegian contingent in Ibil al-Saqy, Lubrani said that the Israeli army is free to move wherever necessary to safeguard Israel's northern border, and all parties should be aware of this.

Lubrani stressed the importance of the security zone to ensure security on the Lebanese-Israeli border.

Al-Khatib Answers Lubrani Remarks on Deployment

NC1103145889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] In response to a statement by Uri Lubrani, so-called coordinator of Israeli activities in Lebanon, welcoming the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the South, Army Commander Major General Sami al-Khatib has said: We are in the South to confront Lubrani and his masters. This is our mission as long as there is a single Israeli soldier in southern Lebanon.

Maj Gen al-Khatib added: The Lebanese Army will not be neutral in confronting the Israeli enemy, regardless of the consequences. It is our mission and irreversible decision to deploy up to the international border with occupied Palestine.

Addresses Deployment, Ports

NC1103215789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Staff Major General Sami al-Khatib, acting Army commander, has emphasized that the Army is in the South to confront Lubrani and his masters. He described the maritime blockade as a supply and military blockade, stressing that freedom of navigation must be for all or for no one.

Major General al-Khatib visited the new headquarters of the Army Administration General Directorate at the UNESCO building today. He was received by Brigadier General Lutfi Jabir, member of the Military Council and administrative director general, and directorate officers. [passage ommitted]

The acting Army commander continued: As for the subject of the ports, arbitrary action has been taken. The patrols and the blockade have become an unjustifiable supply and military blockade. We regard this as a provocative stand and totally reject it. Therefore, we say that freedom of navigation along the Lebanese coast must be ensured. We shall seek to ensure this freedom and contribute to ensuring it, regardless of the consequences. The coast must be free for all or for no one. Maj Gen al-Khatib added: This stand stems from our faith in the unity of Lebanon and of the Army. As a military establishment, and in accordance with the military discipline to which we have committed ourselves and with the oath of allegiance to the homeland that we took, we completely reject the use of military hegemony for the promotion or attainment of personal ambitions.

Army Command Orders Troops To Return Fire

NC1403182189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Statement issued by the Guidance Directorate of Major General Sami al-Khatib's Army Command on 14 March]

[Text] The Army Command issued a statement this morning committing its armed forces to exercise restraint, despite the considerable losses in life and property which our people and areas suffered in Beirut, the southern suburb, and the mountain area. Further to this statement, the Army Command declares:

Now that the criminal hand persists in shelling civilians, military barracks, hospitals, and public utilities to claim more innocent victims, cause further damage and destruction, and bring life to a complete standstill, the Army Command has ordered its forces to answer the sources of fire in a manner commensurate with the extent of the attacks.

In presious statements, this command has drawn attention to this recklessness and thoughtlessness in dealing with general issues and to the desire to serve personal ambitions and settle accounts with partners in joint committees, at the expense of the freedom of maritime navigation in Lebanese territorial waters. It has warned that this will lead to bad consequences for the situation as a whole. There is a legitimate government and there are political figures, which cannot be disregarded when political and fateful decisions are made.

What really surprises this command is that the Nasr Restaurant in Al-Rawshah, Middle East Hospital in Al-Ramlah al-Bayda', the building housing Lebanon's television studios in Tallat al-Khayyat, and other humanitarian and civilian centers have been described as artillery emplacements, so that the Al-Yarzah command could shell and silence them.

Birri Speaks on Closure of 'Nationalist' Ports

NC1303172289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri has said that any act of aggression against any of the nationalist ports would inevitably lead to the closure of all ports. It is putting the entire country in a tight corner at a time when we are looking for political ways out and reconciliation, which alone will affect the security situation, he stated.

He added: We do not consider General 'Awn president of the republic or prime minister. He does not have any legitimacy. Hence we hold his command responsible for any escalation. The opening of Beirut International Airport alone is not enough.

Minister Birri called for the removal of the naval unit that has never intercepted the Israeli gunboats or ships that make regular trips to Juniyah.

Minister Birri hailed the stand of the national government under Dr Salim al-Huss. Al-Huss' government, he said, has tried and is trying to find a way out to take steps that would not bring Lebanon back to a situation of reciprocal shelling.

Says Not To Take 'Awn 'Lightly'

NC1503161889 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has stressed that there are Arab quarters which support General Michel 'Awn's steps aimed at aborting Arab moves regarding Lebanon.

In a radio interview, Birri said that 'Awn is a phenomenon which we, as national forces, must not take lightly. Israel, he asserted, could not dismember Lebanon through its militias, but it may be able to do so by means of pseudo-legal authority.

Birri added: The battle is on and we are facing a dark tunnel. He called on the national forces to rise above sensitivities and find a framework that will unify them in deeds and not only in words.

Middle East Airlines Company Suspends Flights

NC1403090189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 0808 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] An official source in the Lebanese Middle East Airlines company said that the company has decided to suspend all flights to and from Beirut airport on a temporary basis, due to the renewed deterioration in the security situation in the country.

Beirut Port Reportedly Resumes Activity 15 Mar

NC1503073089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Work resumed at Beirut port at 0800 today, with ships starting to unload their goods at the port's piers. The joint Navigation and Air Operations Room continues to monitor the movements of ships along the Lebanese coast to ensure that the regulations are not being violated.

Sources Say Airport, Beirut Port Remain Inactive

NC1503082589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] A state of paralysis and caution prevails in the various utilities in Beirut and the mountain areas as a result of yesterday's massacre. Schools remain closed and light traffic is reported at the Museum-al-Barbir crossing point.

Meanwhile, the airport remains closed following the decision by the Middle East Airlines Company to suspend its flights pending new decisions with regard to air traffic.

In another development, informed sources at Beirut port this morning denied reports on the resumption of work there. The same sources ruled out the possibility that work would resume today.

Artillery Shells Fall on Beirut Port 16 Mar

NC1603062989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0621 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] Artillery shells have been falling at the Beirut port since 0815 today. We will provide our listeners with the details as soon as we receive them.

Property Damaged

NC1603082589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] Four artillery shells fell on Beirut port this morning, causing only property damage. Activity at the port was not affected.

Authorities Seize Ship in Territorial Waters

NC1403080389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Sources in the Joint Navigation Room this morning reported that the navigation authorities seized the ship "Skywan" which was sailing illegally in Lebanese territorial waters. The ship was taken to the Beirut port, where it was handed over to the relevant authorities.

Aircraft Reportedly Fly Over Al-Jiyah Area

NC1303091589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] The Joint Navigation Room instituted patrols at sea and in the air today. It has been reported that antiaircraft fire was directed at aircraft that flew over the Al-Jiyah area this morning. However, a source in the joint navigation room has neither confirmed nor denied the report.

RFL Updates Casualty Toll in 14 Mar Fighting
NC1503064989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Skirmshes involving the use of machineguns and rockets broke out along the Suq al-Gharb and 'Aytat combat lines at around 0540 today. The intensity of the fighting along these lines increased gradually and the situation remains tense.

At 0540, flat-trajectory rounds fell on the Lebanese Army positions in Suq al-Gharb and machinegun fire was directed at Qurs al-Mudawwar. The Lebanese Army started to return the fire 10 minutes later. At 0600, the socialist gunmen resumed their attacks, directing their machinegun fire from their positions in 'Alayh at the residential areas in Al-Kahhalah. The Socialists bombarded the Monte Verde area with 120-mm mortar fire 25 minutes later.

According to security sources, the yesterday's bombardments left well over 40 people dead, including 4 military personnel, and 150 others wounded. In addition, very serious damage was caused to buildings and property. It also has been reported that a Lebanese Army helicopter was destroyed in Al-Yarzah [Defense Ministry].

According to security sources in West Beirut, three Syrian soldiers and four Hizballah members were killed when their positions received direct hits in the Al-Maramil and Al-Awza'i areas yesterday. In addition, 10 Syrian soldiers were killed and 30 others were injured in 'Aramun when the Army returned fire to silence the artillery emplacements.

Meanwhile, the shelling of the Beirut-Shtawrah Road about 50 meters from a Syrian roadblock in Al-Mudayrij destroyed a Syrian Mercedes bearing plate number 2420/60, killing four Syrians and injuring a fifth.

Mountain Areas Attacked; Schools Advised to Close
NC1503063489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Excerpts] We would like to note that 'Awn's military gangs exacerbated the security situation along combat lines in the mountain at 0530 this morning. These gangs used mortars and flat trajectory weapons against nationalist positions in Dahr al-Wahsh form their positions in 'Arayya, Al-Kahhalah, and Monte Verde. The shelling was later expanded to cover 'Alayh at 0545, when several mortars were fired from Bsus, 'Ayn al-Sayyidah, Suq al-Gharb and Al-Qammatiyah. At 0720, fire reached as far as Duhur al-'Ibadiyah. Nationalist positions in the mountain are still coming under shelling.

In another development, the Secretariat of the Civilian Administration in the mountain has issued the following: Despite the deterioration of security yesterday, we did not decide to close schools in the mountain area, out of consideration to protect the students' educational interests.

However, schools are still closed in the isolationist ghetto by a decision which clearly indicates the premeditated, aggressive intentions of 'Awn's malevolent gangs and their determination to commit new massacres against innocent people, like those committed yesterday in Beirut and other areas outside the gang's jurisdiction. The civilian administration on the mountain appeals to all citizens to be cautious, and advises the owners of private schools, the headmasters of formal schools, parents, and all workers in the educational sector, to be alert to the premeditated criminal intentions of 'Awn's malevolent and frantic gangs. They should not be allowed to achieve the goals of their indiscriminate shelling which reaps innocent souls. Therefore, it is preferable not to open schools today, until the fate of this gang is known. [passage omitted]

We have just been informed that nationalist positions in Ra's al-Jabal have been coming under mortar fire from positions manned by 'Awn's gangs in Al-Qammatiyah for some time.

'Skirmishes' Reported Along Mountain Combat Lines
NC1503100689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Skirmishes involving the use of automatic weapons and rockets are continuing along the combat lines in the mountain, particularly along the Duhur al-'Ibadiyah and Dahr al-Wahsh lines.

Similar clashes took place along the combat lines in Beirut's commercial area as well as along the combat lines in the capital's southern suburb at approximately 1000 today.

Mountain Area Under Machinegun, Rocket Fire
NC1503160289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1549 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] We have just learned that machinegun and rocket fire is being directed at the Suq al-Gharb and 'Aytat combat lines in the mountain area. Shells are reaching residential areas on the outskirts of Al-Kahhalah and 'Arayya.

Explosion Near Swiss Embassy in West Beirut
NC1503091289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] We have just been informed that an explosion occurred near the Swiss Embassy in the 'Ayn al-Muraysah area [in West Beirut] a short while ago. Security sources have not yet determined the cause of the blast, which has left one person injured. Meanwhile, security forces are trying to extinguish the fire which broke out as a result of the explosion.

One Injury Reported

NC1503094689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0930 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Exerpts] A Fiat 132 rigged with explosives detonated near the Swiss Embassy on Graham Street in 'Ayn al-Muraysah at 1115 today, injuring one person.

In another development, violent clashes between Progressive Socialist Party fighters and 'Awn's gunmen are currently raging along the mountain combat lines. The 'Awn groups are pounding residential areas with mortars. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, ferocious fighting in which machinegun and rockets are being used is raging in Beirut's commercial area.

PSP Politburo Seeks Crossing Points Closed

NC1303134189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] The Political Bureau of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] which held a meeting today under party leader Walid Junblatt, reviewed the security escalation by the 'Awn clique and its military and food blockade of the nationalist areas.

The Political Bureau believes that in order to confront this escalation there is a need to close the crossing points, isolate the advocates of the partition plan, and adopt a policy of confrontation with the government—in a bid to foil its objectives and ward off the threats of war once again in the country.

The Political Bureau called for meeting all the requirements of the national areas. In this respect, the Political Bureau called for opening credits for imports through the national ports or through Syria, rejecting all blackmailing in this regard on the part of the 'Awn clique, and taking decisive measures toward legalizing the ports located in the national areas, since there is a continuing national and historic need for such action.

PSP Leader Declares Support for Syrian Army

NC1403145989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] The leader of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] has declared that the party stands militarily and politically beside the Syrian Arab Army in the face of the isolationist Saddamist conspiracy. We will not hesitate to use all means to defeat this scheme, in order to defend Lebanon's Arabism and preserve the nationalist common destiny.

Calls for 'Unifying All Forces'

NC1503124389 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt today said that the battle which the Lebanese isolationists under the command of 'Awn and his gang are trying to depict as one against Syria, is, in fact, a battle directed against all Lebanese factions and nationalists, as well as against the nationalist army and the legitimate nationalist government led by Dr Salim al-Huss.

Junblatt called for unifying all forces, ignoring all differences, and overlooking all sensitivities so that we may lead a unified battle to bridle the leaders of the isolationists and stop their conspiracies against our people.

Syrian Convoy Reportedly Heads Toward Mountain

NC1403125089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1245 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] According to military sources, a Syrian military convoy left Al-Biqa' heading toward the mountain a short while ago.

Syria Deploys Weapons; Pressures Junblatt

NC1503131289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Security sources have stated that the Syrians have deployed scores of rocket launchers and artillery pieces behind combat lines extending between Zahlah and Duhur al-Shuwayr. Damascus is also exerting pressure on Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, to persuade him to escalate the military situation from his positions in the mountain. However, sources say, Junblatt expressed his fears of the consequences, particularly the negative effects resulting from Syrian pressures on Lebanese elements to take part in the military operations against the Lebanese Army and East Beirut.

The same sources noted the state of alert declared by the Syrian Social and Nationalist Party [SSNP] and the pro-Syrian Ba'th Party, particularly in Duhur al-Shiwayr, Bulunya and Al-Muruj. Armed groups in these areas made further fortifications and deployed new field artillery pieces and anti-aircraft weapons, which had been recently moved to the area by the Syrian troops.

It was also reported that the Syrian command pushed Sunnite elements to the frontlines and withdrew 'Alawites to the rear.

Syrian Brigades Head for W. Beirut, Mountain Area

NC1503153889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] All the signs still indicate that an escalation of the situation is possible. At 1540 today, the Al-Tayyunah and Dar al-Kitab lines came under medium- and heavy-caliber machinegun fire. Tension still prevails in the area.

Meanwhile, reprots confirm that the Syrian occupation forces are reinforcing their rear lines in the mountain area and West Beirut with heavy weapons, including rocket launchers and mortars. They are also massing allied organizations, reinforced with men and weapons, on the forward confrontation lines.

The BAYRUT NEWS AGENCY has reported that two Syrian armored brigades crossed the Lebanese-syrian border this morning and made for Shtawrah, from where one brigade headed for West Beirut and the other toward the mountain area. The Syrian occupation forces barred civilian traffic on the Beirut-Damascus highway as of noon today until further notice.

Syrians Close Border to Civilian Traffic

NC1503181689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Excerpts] The CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY has reported that the Syrian forces closed the Lebanese-Syrian border to civilian vehicles this afternoon and declared the road to and from the international border a military road for the brigades, trucks, and vehicles which they are bringing into Lebanese territory. Meanwhile, gunmen roamed West Beirut areas, calling for a general closure and urging the public to stay indoors in anticipation of a planned major military operation. The streets of West Beirut and the suburbs were at a complete standstill this afternoon.

According to reports, a convoy of Syrian trucks loaded with ammunition crossed the Al-Mudayrij area at dawn today in the direction of (?al-'Abdudiyah) and Sawfar in order to reinforce the artillery there and supply the T-54 and T-55 tanks opposite Dahr al-Wahsh. Furthermore ,the Syrian armored brigade in (Al-Rumiyah) has been placed on maximum alert and tanks and vehicles in that area have moved toward the 'Aramun hills and Khaldah triangle. Meanwhile, Syrian forces in (Al-Rumul) have fortified their positions with earthen ramparts. [passage omitted]

A large exodus from places adjacent to Syrian positions and emplacements in West Beirut and the suburb was observed today. A number of Syrian rocket launchers were observed to have been installed in the southern suburb, especially on rooftops in the Al-Ruways area.

Group Claims Attack on Syrian Army in Tripoli

NC1303062989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] The 16 January Organization for the Liberation of Tripoli has claimed responsibility for an attack on a Syrian occupation army post in the municipal stadium in Tripoli at 2015 yesterday. The Syrian Army suffered a number of casualties as a result of the attack.

The organization advised the citizens not to go out at night and to keep away from Syrian positions which are targeted for military operations.

The organization pledged that it will continue military operations against the Syrian occupation forces and their agents until Tripoli is liberated from tyranny and injustice.

Syrian Position Attacked; 1 Soldier Killed

NC1403203189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] The Shaykh Subhi al-Salih Forces have been in touch with our radio to claim responsibility for a hand grenade attack against a Syrian position on the airport road in the Al-Ghubayrah area at 2035 this evening. The attack resulted in the death of one of those manning the position and the wounding of two others.

4 Syrians Injured in 2 Attacks in W. Beirut

NC1403215789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2145 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] The Beirut Martyrs Battalion has claimed responsibility for an attack on two syrian occupation forces positions in the Starco and the Holiday Inn areas [in West Beirut]. A Battalion spokesman said that four Syrian soldiers were injured in the two attacks.

Resistance Group Attacks Lahd Forces in South

NC1003160989 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] The resistance fighters' operations against the occupation forces and traitor Lahd's militia continue in the South. The Martyr Ahmad 'Ali Shu'ayb group of the Islamic resistance carried out a daring operation against the occupation forces on the Marj 'Uyun-Ibil al-Saqi road at 1500 this afternoon. According to Islamic resistance sources, four enemy helicopters are still circling the area and transporting the dead and wounded to inside occupied Palestine.

Bomb Explodes in Isreali-Held 'Security Zone'

NC1003164189 Paris AFP in English 1625 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] Jerusalem, March 10 (AFP)—Four Lebanese civilians and two Israeli soldiers were hurt Friday in an explosion in the Israeli-held "security zone" in southern Lebanon, reliable sources at the Lebanon-Israel border said.

They said the device was activated by remote control north of the Lebanese town of Marj 'Uyun.

Israeli troops deployed in the 850-kilometer (340-mile) "security zone" launched an immediate search operation in the district, the sources said.

The Fatah Provisional Command meanwhile claimed responsibility Friday for an attack Thursday against the Israeli military vehicle north of Jerusalem.

The group said in a statement issued in Damascus that several Israeli soldiers were killed or wounded when the Palestinian guerrillas attacked them with automatic weapons and grenades.

The report was not confirmed here.

Resistance Group Attacks, Kills Israeli Agents

NC1303121589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] In the resisting South, a Lebanese resistance group attacked with rockets and machineguns Tallat al-Burj on the Kafr Tibnit crossing last night, killing or wounding a number of Israel's agents. An armored personnel carrier and an observation post were completely destroyed. A 25-minute clash ensued between the resistance men and the agents manning the position. Shortly afterward, the agents raked the area, and the Israeli enemy bombarded Kafr Tibnit and Al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa.

Resistance Group Carries Out 'Suicide Operation'

NC1303102189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] A military source in the Palestine Liberation Front has stated that the Martyr Abu Sakhr unit of the Martyr Tal'at Ya'qub forces carried out a suicide operation north of Palestine, in Al-Manara at dawn today. The enemy radio admitted the operation and said that three resistance fighters were killed in the operation.

Clash Leaves 'Heavy Casualties'

NC1303181589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] The Palestinian Liberation Front today declared that a group from the Martyr Tal'at Ya'qub forces carried out operation Al-Manara No 2 in Al-Manara today. The 4-hour clash left heavy casualties in the ranks of the enemy, according to the front's statement, which added that enemy helicopters and vehicles had taken part in the battle.

Israeli Patrol Kills 4 'Guerrillas' in South

NC1303084789 Paris AFP in English 0831 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, March 13 (AFP)—An Israeli patrol intercepted and killed four guerrillas a few hundred meters (yards) from the Israeli border in southern Lebanon overnight, regional security sources said Monday.

The guerrillas were killed during a four-hour battle with automatic weapons and anti-tank rockets near mays al-Jabal village, inside Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon, the sources said.

(In Jerusalem, military officials said an Israel patrol had killed three guerrillas near Mays al-Jabal, where they placed a kilometer (1.25 miles) from the Israeli border.)

There were no immediate reports of Israeli casualties.

It was the second attempt to infiltrate Israel from Lebanon in 24 hours. Overnight Saturday, an Israeli patrol killed two guerrillas from the extremist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) near the Lebanese town of Hasbaya, in the "security zone."

The PFLP-GC, a Damascus-based group led by Ahmad Jibril, said the infiltration was staged to protest the "capitulationist" policies of Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The PFLP-GC has boycotted all PLO meetings since 1984.

Reportage on Activity of Israeli 'Warplanes'

Fly Over Beirut 11 Mar

NC1103085389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier over the capital 3 minutes ago.

Fly Over Sidon, Camps

NC1203092389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0920 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Antiaircraft fire was directed at a sortie of Israeli warplanes that flew over Sidon and the Palestinian camps at 1045 today.

Stage Mock Raids Over South

NC1203182289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes conducted intensive flights and carried out mock raids over the 'Alman forests [in South Lebanon] at 1400 this afternoon.

In the meantime, the Agent Lahd militia fired shells at the positions of the Popular Liberation Army on the Kafr Falus-'Ayn al-Mir front where tension was high. Skirmishes with medium- and light-caliber weapons took place this evening.

Commentary Views Cause of Latest Lebanon Crisis

JN1503145889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: We will not ask General 'Awn who gave him the green light to cause an explosion in the Lebanese situation. Undoubtedly, he prefers to keep this to himself and his allies. 'Awn, the experienced soldier who can accurately assess military calculations, must realize that whoever declares the so-called liberation war against Syria needs a larger capability than he possesses—either on the military or the popular front. Before answering this question, we will ask again: Who benefits from inflaming the situation at this particular time? To refresh the general's memory we will present some details.

With the atmosphere of optimism prevailing in Lebanon recently, Syria—on many occasions—expressed its satisfaction and affirmed its determination to support the six-member Arab committee's efforts to reinforce this atmosphere. However, when this atmosphere first prevailed, and particularly when units from the Lebanese nationalist army moved to southern Lebanon to assume their role in confronting Israeli occupation, the Israelis threatened to expand the occupation in the south and escalated their threats against Syria. It has become clear that the atmosphere of optimism created by the Arab committee's efforts and the steps accompanying them did not please Israel, which has always torpedoed any effort to rescue Lebanon from its ordeal. It goes without saying that Israel has an interest in inflaming the situation and in torpedoing Arab efforts to find a solution or at least perpetuate a hopeful atmosphere for a solution.

So, have we answered the question who gave the general the green light to explode the situation? Or should we refresh the general's memory yet again with more details on Syria's stand and the others' stands on a solution in Lebanon?

Syria has affirmed often that it does not want to stay in Lebanon and that Syria's only interest in that sisterly state is to preserve it as one, united, free, sovereign, and Arab homeland for all its sons with all their religious sects. The Lebanese civil war was not a Syrian, Arab, or national idea. Israel, and other enemies of the Arabs ignited and exploited this civil war. They are still exploiting its consequences for their own interests and in the interests of their schemes and ambitions. Israel and the Arabs' enemies want to fragment and divide Lebanon to achieve their ambitions. Meanwhile, there is no conflict whatsoever between a united and independent Arab Lebanon and Syria's national and pan-Arab interests.

Is there still a need to recall the ambitions of the expansionist Zionists in Lebanese territory and waters? Is there still a need to recall that Israel is preparing in the future to exploit Lebanese water resources, particularly since Israel's water resources will decrease by 30 per cent in the coming years? Only Israel and its agents have an interest in fragmenting and dividing Lebanon into sectarian cantons ddpenedent on the Zionist entity. On the other hand, Syria has resisted and sacrificed to prevent partition. Syria has always been on the side of all Lebanese factions. It was never on the side of one party at the expense of another. Syria has always been on the side of all Lebanese inasmuch as they were on the side of their one united homeland.

Israel has something to gain from inflaming the situation. And Gen 'Awn, who opted to become the spark of the explosion, and consequently, an Israeli tool, knows this full well. He also knows that all his attempts to cast doubts and suspicion on Syria's stands are doomed to failure and all his accusations are false. Syria did not change, has not changed, and will not change its stands on Lebanon.

Further Comments on Lebanon

JN1603080689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 Mar 89

[From the "press review"]

[Text] In its editorial, the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Following the efforts to save Lebanon and remove the causes of the crisis resulting from 14 years of domestic conflict, the isolationists have escalated their crimes and perpetrated a massacre, thereby allying themselves with the cause of Zionism.

AL-BA'TH wonders: Who benefits from this escalation and aggravation of the situation? The paper explains that the isolationists have done everything to encourage fragmentation, partition, estrangement, and disharmony among the Lebanese. The paper says: The impasse Israel faces today as a result of the escalating intifadah [uprising] and the increasing world pressure for an international peace conference in the region confirm that Israel has created the crisis in Lebanon.

AL-BA'TH adds: Therefore, and regardless of the attempts by those involved in the plan to exacerbate the Lebanese situation to disguise their actions as Lebanese actions, the Israeli hand will remain apparent behind them. The paper says: Syria did not enter Lebanon to occupy it. It does not covet Lebanon and does not support only one Lebanese party. Syria entered Lebanon in response to a Lebanese invitation and carried out a humanitarian, pan-Arab, and national task. AL-BA'TH adds: It is not boasting to say that Syria's stand has always been pan-Arab, fraternal, and humanitarian. As the Arab leader, Hafiz al-Asad, said, this stand supports a unified Arab Lebanon for all of its sons, a Lebanon that plays an Arab role and maintains Arab relations. Moreover, Syria supports a sound, healthy Lebanon founded on national reconcliation and equality and justice for all Lebanese.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH also discusses the same issue. It says: The bloody events to which the fraternal Lebanese people have been subjected have proved that the deviationists, who have sold themselves to the Zionist enemy and have sworn themselves to be its agents and made pledges by its symbols, cannot respond to any effort or initiative to settle the crisis in Lebanon. This is because the logic and mentality of the deviationist military man, and his practices, inevitably conflict with the aspirations of all groups of the sisterly Lebanese people. AL-THAWRAH explains that the cards of the deviationist military man have fallen away and the game has been exposed. It affirms that Lebanon will remain stubborn against its enemies, or those who perpetrate massacres in Lebanon regardless of the guise they wear or role they play—and will be difficult to defeat. The paper emphasizes that Syria will remain at Lebanon's side under all circumstances.

Al-Shar', Ba'th Party's Ahmar on Peace Prospects

AU1403084789 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 11 Mar 89 p 6

[Unattributed report on interview with 'Abdallah Ahmar, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, and Faruq al-Shar', minister of foreign affairs, by Prague RUDE PRAVO Chief Editor Zdenek Horeni: "Syrian Views: A Peaceful Settlement: A Future for the Middle East Countries, Too"—date, place not given]

[Text] What is the situation in the Middle East today, following the end of the Iran-Iraq war, with an uprising in the territories occupied by Israel, with continuing unrest in Lebanon, and with preparations for an international conference on a peaceful settlement in the Middle East? How does the Syrian Arab Republic [SAR]—a country that has always played an important role in the ranks of anti-imperialist, progressive, and peace-loving forces in this sensitive part of the world—view the situation in its region? Two Syrian representatives—'Abdallah Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party, and Faruq al-Shar', SAR minister of foreign affairs—answered these and other questions for RUDE PRAVO Chief Editor Zdenek Horeni. The two representatives stressed that Syria, as a direct participant in the Middle East conflict, is sincerely interested in the earliest possible resolution of this conflict.

Prerequisites for Peaceful Settlement

After the 1973 October War, international interest in resolving the Middle East conflict increased. The efforts of the USSR and the other socialist countries played a considerable role in that respect, 'Abdallah Ahmar, one of President Hafiz al-Asad's closest colleagues, stressed in the interview.

One of the reasons Syria is in favor of the settlement of the Middle East conflict is that it has suffered greatly in the region's wars. It wants genuine peace, not the peace understood by Israel, which continues to occupy Arab territories. Peace must ensure the stability and peaceful coexistence of all states and nations in the region. Peaceful settlement must be guaranteed in order to prevent a return to the past. At the same time, all parties involved must have these guarantees. Israel hypocritically asserts that it needs guarantees against a possible attack by the Arabs. In reality, however, it is the Arabs who have several times became the victims of Israeli aggression.

We believe that a settlement can be achieved through peace efforts and a strategic balance between the Arabs and Israel, Ahmar noted.

All Arabs support peace efforts, but some of them are so much taken by the idea of peace that they are willing to make unilateral concessions to the enemy, with the result that Israel feels stronger and hardens its position. Concessions must be made on both sides, or there will be unilateral hardening of Israel's positions. The truth of this thesis is further borne out by the results of the November elections in Israel where, despite some positive shifts shown by public opinion polls, the extremists have become far stronger. They have the decisive say in Israel now, and constitute a real obstacle on the road to peace in the Middle East.

The Arabs have a united plan for the settlement of the situation in the region, which proceeds from decisions by the highest representatives of the Arab countries in Fes, Amman, and Algiers. Its essence and objective is peace, and its framework is an international conference on the Middle East. Peace can be achieved only through Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Syria considers herself bound by this common Arab position, Ahmar stressed.

The Problem of Arab Unity

For Syria and the Ba'th Party, achieving Arab unity is the priority issue. From its founding, the Ba'th Party has considered this one of its three fundamental political objectives, the others being freedom and socialism. These three fundamental objectives of the Ba'th movement must be understood in their organic interdependence. The achievement of unity can provide an important impetus for the achievement of socialism and freedom. Ahmar said further that many people ask themselves why the idea of Arab unity is being stressed to such a degree in the Arab world. This is because, although there are 22 Arab states, the Arabs are actually a single nation that did not divide itself of its own will, but was divided by world colonialism.

In this connection he noted the struggle of the Syrian people against British and French colonizers. He added that after the departure of the British and the French, other colonialists arrived—the Zionists, who expelled, and are still keeping out, the indigenous Arab population from Palestine.

Ahmar stressed that Palestinians have nothing against Jews as such, because they have lived in peace with them for centuries. To this day Jewish minorities have lived, side by side with other religions, in peace and tranquillity in Syria and other Arab countries. However, the Arabs have fought those who came to Palestine as aggressors.

From the very beginning of their presence in the Middle East, the Zionists have been cooperating closely with imperialism. First with French and British, and now with American imperialism, Ahmar said. Imperialism has exploited every opportunity and factor that reinforces fragmentation in the Arab world. The popular masses have been, and are, the leaders in the Arab struggle against imperialism and Zionism. An example of this was the revolution of 8 March 1963, in Syria by the Ba'th Party. The party continues its efforts to achieve Arab unity and will never stop doing so.

Arab unity is not an empty slogan, as our enemies assert. It is possible to achieve it, even though obstacles and difficulties must be overcome. However, we are optimistic regarding the achievement of this objective.

A Component of World Developments

Minister of Foreign Affairs Faruq al-Shar', who answered a number of questions on the international situation, said, above all, that Syria is very satisfied with the continuing detente in international politics. He added, however, that the international climate could be even better if the West were to react in the same way to the constructive initiatives and proposals of the socialist countries.

Al-Shar' said that detente also contributes to the solution of regional conflicts (Namibia, Angola, Western Sahara, Central America, Cambodia, Cyprus). He also noted the influence of the relaxation of tension on the conclusion of the Iraq-Iran war. On Afghanistan he said that the Soviet Union had fulfilled all its pledges to the international community under the Geneva accords. If the other parties would also keep their pledges, the situation in Afghanistan would be less complex. He described the present situation in the country as alarming and dangerous, and expressed the hope that the Afghan Government would be able to realize its objectives, that a government of broad people's unity would be established, leading to the normalization of the situation in the country and ending foreign interference.

Al-Shar' said that, up until now, the relaxation of international tensions has not been evident in the Middle East, where the situation not only remains complex, but has become even more volatile. It looks as if Israel, supported by the United States, is seeking to stand alone against the international community, which the Syrian representative described as very dangerous. Israel continues along that path despite the fact that the socialist countries, by their open policy toward Israel, are trying to include it in the process of easing tensions in the region.

The 15 months of the uprising in the occupied territories demonstrate clearly that the Palestinians reject the Israeli occupation on principle. Despite the fact that the Palestinians have been conducting the uprising without weapons, Israel has responded with brute force. Without taking into consideration the purpose of the uprising, it stubbornly rejects the right of the Palestinian nation to self-determination and the establishment of its own state.

Al-Shar' said that in talks with three West European foreign ministers (of Spain, Greece, and France), who recently visited Damascus, he pointed out that prolonged demonstrations in the Western countries would lead to a change of government. Despite that, the 15-month uprising in the occupied territories has changed nothing in the attitude of the Israeli state, a state that Western Europe asserts is democratic.

On Yasir 'Arafat's Policy

Minister Al-Shar' then mentioned what he termed 'Arafat's concessions, the concessions made by the representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) from the rostrum of the UN General Assembly in Geneva last year in favor of the United States and Israel. However, no positive shift occurred in the Israeli position—on the contrary, Israel's position has become even harder, the minister said. A sign of this is the strengthening of the positions of the Israeli rightist parties. The program of the coalition government of the Likud and the Labor Party includes the construction of an increased number of settlements in the occupied territories (8 a year at present), despite the fact that before the elections the Labor Party was against that. Al-Shar' enumerated the program of the new Israeli Government thus: refusal to withdraw to the 1967 borders, denying the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, reaffirming Jerusalem as the eternal capital of Israel, drawing a secure border for Israel on the River Jordan, and refusing to recognize the PLO.

The Syrian minister pointed out that his country has always warned against unilateral concessions. It cannot recognize an Israel that refuses to recognize a Palestinian state, and which regards the occupied Arab territories as liberated lands. The minister believes that, as a consequence of Israel's attitude, the Middle East conflict will last for a long time. He asked friends of Syria to understand that the Arab countries are not to blame for this. He repeated that Syria is interested in a lasting and comprehensive peace to resolve the conflict. For several years, it has supported an international conference on the Middle East, to be attended by all involved parties, including the PLO and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. Al-Shar' stressed that this conference must lead to the withdrawal of the Israeli troops from all Arab territories occupied in 1967 and to the establishment the Palestinian people's rights, including the right to establish their own independent state in Palestine, and not in Jordan, he stressed.

The Iran-Iraq Conflict

Al-Shar' declared that the ceasefire between Iran and Iraq is a positive development. From the very beginning, Syria contributed to stopping the conflict. When hostilities first broke out, it tried, with other countries, to make Iraq end the war, but it was accused by Iraq of wanting to deprive it of victory. Despite this failure, Syria continued to try to prevent the conflict from spreading to other countries in the Persian Gulf. He stressed that without Syrian efforts, some other countries might have been dragged into the war. He noted that the Iraqi people are a part of the Arab nation, and therefore Syria did not want them to suffer a long-term conflict. Al-Shar' added that Syria supports all points of the UN Security Council's Resolution 598, and hopes that it will be implemented. Syria desires stability and security in the Persian Gulf and demands the withdrawal of foreign naval vessels from the region. He also emphasized that Syria maintains friendly and extensive relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Situation in Lebanon

The complex Lebanese problem has deep internal origins as well as external causes. The Syrian minister sees one of the main causes to be the Lebanese Constitution, which was proclaimed at the time of the French mandate in 1926, and in which the confessional (religious) system is enshrined. Despite the fact that Constitution was to be temporary, it has now been in force for 63 years, and is outdated. Another cause is Israeli interference in Lebanon. Before, but also after, the advent of Israel, there were several crises in Lebanon, but those that occurred after the founding of Israel were substantially worse and more complex.

According to the Syrian minister, the only way to end the crisis in Lebanon is by doing the following:

First, implementing extensive political reforms, which will ensure the equality of all citizens and the democratization of the country's political system. Based on these reforms, a new constitution must be adopted that will ensure that all political parties have a share in government. The country's confessional system must be abolished.

Second, the international community must order Israel unconditionally to withdraw from Lebanon and thus fulfill the UN Security Council's Resolution 425. Not only the Lebanese patriotic forces, but also the majority of the Lebanese people support that demand. It also has Syria's support, which cooperates with the commission of the Arab League to help the Lebanese resolve the internal crisis. Syria firmly believes that this effort will be successful.

Syria's special interest in Lebanon and the endeavor to remove the obstacles standing in the way of a Lebanese settlement stem from the traditional strong relations between Lebanon and Syria. Al-Shar' stated that Syria and Lebanon were one state in the past, which was divided only after World War I on the basis of a secret agreement between France and Britain.

There are also very strong bonds of family between Syria and Lebanon, which Al-Shar' documented by noting fact that at the beginning of the civil war in Lebanon in 1975-76, one-quarter of the population of Lebanon fled to Syria. Syria looks at the Lebanese problem also from the viewpoint of its own security and from the domestic political viewpoint.

During the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in the early 1980's, Israeli troops stood 24 km from Damascus, their cold steel aimed at the heart of Syria. We will not allow a repetition of that. Therefore, we want the reunification of Lebanon, under a patriotic government leading its people to national reconciliation and understanding. The unconditional departure of Israel from southern Lebanon also must be ensured.

On CSSR-Syrian Cooperation

The two Syrian representatives described relations between Syria and the CSSR as strong and constantly developing, which is a consequence of the interest and efforts of the two countries' leaders, who are determined to keep on developing these relations.

'Abdallah Ahmar described the developing relations between the Ba'th Party and the Czechoslovak Communist Party [CPCZ] as the fundamental prerequisite for a successful and dynamic development of relations in other spheres. He said that the party and country leadership would greatly welcome a visit to Syria by Milos Jakes, general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee.

Minister Al-Shar', too, described the strengthening and the deepening of relations between our countries as very necessary and stressed that the SAR will do everything it can to ensure that they continue to intensify and expand.

At the same time, however, he emphasized that there were some limiting factors in economic relations. However, bilateral efforts are being made to ensure that their impact is as small as possible. The determination and will exists on the Syrian side to continue expanding relations with the CSSR, the Syrian minister said.

Zdenek Horeni, RUDE PRAVO chief editor, visited Syria during 2-7 March at the invitation of Turki Saqr, chief editor of the newspaper AL-BA'TH. He met with a number of Syrian journalists. He was also received by 'Izz al-Din Nasir, member of the Regional Command of the Ba'th Party and chairman of the Syrian-Czechoslovak Friendship Society; Sulayman Qaddah, deputy secretary general of the Regional Command of the Ba'th Party; Muhammad

Salman, minister of information; and Saber Falhut, chairman of the Syrian Journalists Union. He visited Al-Qunaytirah, a town destroyed by Israeli occupiers 15 years ago. (RUDE PRAVO editorial note)

Al-Zu'bi Receives PDRY Defense Minister

JN1203200289 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Colonel Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, member of the Yemeni Socialist Party Political Bureau and defense minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], at 1900 today.

General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, attended the meeting along with the PDRY ambassador in Damascus.

At the beginning of the meeting, Col Ahmad conveyed to the prime minister the greetings of PDRY Prime Minister Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man and extended an invitation to him to visit Aden. The prime minister welcomed Col Ahmad and asked him to convey similar greetings to Dr Nu'man and good wishes to the fraternal PDRY people.

The talks dealt with relations between the two fraternal countries and means of promoting them in the interest of both countries.

Afghanistan

Kabul-Mujahidin Fighting in Jalalabad Continues

'Non-Strategic Points' Seized

BK1503154089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1527 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, March 15 (AFP)—The Afghan Government conceded Wednesday [15 March] that mujahidin guerrillas had managed to occupy non-strategic points in the eastern city of Jalalabad and the adjacent military base of Samar Kheyl.

But government spokesman Muhammad Nabi Amani said that no strategic post had been taken by resistance forces since they launched a large-scale offensive on Jalalabad on March 5. He said the guerrillas managed to infiltrate some areas of both places, but that at first the Afghan Army did not fire back for fear of hitting civilians.

The resistance had claimed on March 9 to have wiped out remaining government positions at Samar Kheyl, the main line of defense for Jalalabad, some 10 kilometers (six miles) from the city.

'Fierce Fighting' Continues

BK1503163889 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say fierce fighting is continuing around the city of Jalalabad, with mujahidin exerting their pressure on Kabul regime's forces from all directions. To release the mujahidin pressure, Kabul Air Force is increasingly bombarding mujahidin positions to prevent their advance toward the (?beleaguered) city of Jalalabad. The bombardment is resulting in heavy casualties on the civilian population in the city.

Air Force Bombs Rebel Positions

LD1503174589 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] The BAKHTAR military section, quoting a source in the air and air defense forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, reports that the heroic Air Force of the Republic of Afghanistan is taking extensive part in battle against the joint Pakistani and opposition armed forces linked to Pakistan, who have invaded the city of Jalalabad. The report adds that the heroic pilots of the Air Force render regular combat flights to the battle fronts in Nangarhar Province.

The Afghan pilots, without feeling tired, fly more than usual every day attacking enemy positions and their supply routes in Nangarhar Province, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy forces. Reports arriving from battle fronts at Nangarhar Province state that the [words indistinct] and precision of the Air Force bombardment at the battlefront in Nangarhar Province is worrying the enemies of our people in Pakistan. To raise the morale of their invading forces, they claim that it is possible that the pilots of these aircrafts are not Afghan pilots.

The fear thus created in the ranks of the invading forces as a result of the operations by the heroic Air Force is indicative of their strength and high efficiency and our self-sacrificing pilots in carrying out fully independent combat operations. The Afghan pilots are the true sons of their patriotic fathers and forefathers who have left behind heroic deeds and epics in the war of independence against the invasions of British colonialism. Our pilots, who carry the blood of their fathers and forefathers in their veins, courageously, with a feeling of love for the homeland and the people and accepting all dangers, are taking part in battles with the invading Pakistani forces and the Afghan armed groups. During the recent few days, they have inflicted heavy losses on the enemy.

Rebels Suffer 'Heavy Losses'

LD1503180189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] The Nangarhar front command and the Armed Forces High Command reports that while repelling the attacks of the Pakistani invaders and the armed extremists against Jalalabad city, heavy losses have been inflicted on the invading forces. The corpses of scores of those killed have been recovered by the Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces in Nangarhar Province. Utilizing its [word indistinct] possibilities, the Nangarhar front command has asked the enemy armed group commanders in the front lines to receive the bodies of their dead and take them away. However, there has been no answer so far about this. The bodies of those killed are in the possession of the Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces and are being kept in Jalalabad city.

The Armed Forces High Command told the relatives of those killed in Nangarhar Province and the refugee camps to report to the Nangarhar civilian and military authorities in order to receive their relatives' bodies or to send their elders and mullahs for this purpose. If no one comes to take away the bodies, then according to religious custom and Afghan traditions the Republic of Afghanistan authorities in Nangarhar Province will have to bury these bodies in a specified place.

Armed Forces Command Statement

LD1603074489 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 16 Mar 89

["Statement of the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces"]

[Text] Kabul, March 15, BAKHTAR—The joint aggression of Pakistani soldiers and militias as well as armed opposition groups which had begun on March 6, 1989 for occupation of Jalalabad city continued until March 14, 1989.

In addition to direct participation of Pakistani soldiers in the battle, artillery and rockets detachments as well as Pakistani helicopters were active at the rear of the front. Likewise, advisors from Pakistan and other foreign countries were responsible for deployment and management in the front line of the battle and were conducting artillery shellings on Jalalabad city and its surroundings. The Pakistani Armed Forces which are stationed along the border provided arms, munitions as well as foodstuffs and they were carrying out other logistics activities as well.

But advancing of the enemies has been halted as a result of the extensive operations carried out by the Air Force, artillery and Army of the Republic of Afghanistan and a number of others were pushed back as well. During the said operations heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy and a large amount of arms and ammunition and strongholds of the enemy were demolished. The morale of the enemy was also weakened as a result of the heavy blows of the government's Armed Forces.

Precise reports show that the Pakistani advisors kill those who are seriously injured using a kind of poisonous medicine. The Pakistani advisors prevent transfer of bodies of those who are killed in the war to Pakistan. Such measures have been adopted in order to prevent tension and protests among the refugee camps and families of Pakistani soldiers.

The reports also indicate that the Afghan refugees based in Peshawar launched demonstrations in Mata and Manda camps strongly [word indistinct] armed opposition groups and Pakistani soldiers on Jalalabad city.

The reports also point out, as a result of criminal actions of Pakistani advisors from one hand and defeat of the enemy in Jalalabad war on the other hand, caused that the armed opposition groups in the enemy front to refrain from war.

The Supreme Command of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan welcomed the wise decision of the armed opposition groups which refrain from war and appreciate those groups which did not directly participate in aggression on Jalalabad city. The Supreme Command of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan announced that those [who] are still fighting in the enemy front and do not wish to continue bloodshed can enter into contact with the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan and their life will be fully guaranteed. They can also transfer their wounded persons to hospitals of Jalalabad city and they should not let Pakistani advisors to kill their persons under the name of treatment.

The statement of the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan demand all Afghans to unify themselves at this historical moment as their country is faced with flagrant aggression of Pakistan.

'Key' Airport Position Taken

BK1603105689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1045 GMT 16 Mar 89

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Excerpts] Peshawar, Pakistan, March 16 (AFP)—Afghan resistance guerrillas overran a key Kabul government position at the airport in the city of Jalalabad and are advancing towards the terminal building, resistance sources said Thursday [16 March]. The sources said heavy fighting between Soviet-backed Afghan Government forces and mujahidin guerrillas continued at Jalalabad's heavily-fortified airport, which has been closed for the past several days. [passage omitted].

Resistance sources said Thursday that the mujahidin had crossed a barbed wire fence in the eastern sector of the airport in a big offensive overnight. "This is the first time that mujahidin have penetrated the strategic part of the airport," one source said.

Haji Din Muhammad, deputy chief of the Hezb-e Eslami (Khalis) faction, personally led the attack, according to the sources. Mr. Muhammad is also national security minister in the interim resistance government set up at a meeting in the Pakistani city of Rawalpindi on February 23.

Resistance guerrillas overran a militia post at the airport, killing six troops, destroying two tanks and two armoured cars and capturing a large quantity of arms and ammunition, mujahidin sources said. They described it as a major gain and said it could herald the fall of the entire airport soon.

Afghan Government planes continued to bomb mujahidin positions around Jalalabad but have not attacked the airport, the sources said. In a surprise move, Afghan Government planes heavily bombed two government positions near Jalalabad after advising troops to evacuate the area. The planes bombed the Sarah Kila fortress and Muqam Khan posts, they said. Pressure had increased on Sarah Kila and Muqam Khan after nearby defences fell to mujahidin this week, they said, adding that the action was taken because the regime knew the guerrillas would not allow reinforcements.

Elsewhere, the rebels seized a government position close to the northern defence line of Jalalabad, the resistance sources said. Resistance and diplomatic sources said Wednesday that rebel reinforcements were arriving to take part in a second major assault on Jalalabad. Resistance sources here and Pakistan-based diplomats said the assault on Jalalabad had been disorganised so far and that the mujahidin were regrouping for a second offensive. Groups of between 50 and 100 guerrillas had arrived at the battle front from Pakistan in recent days to take part in a fresh offensive, they said.

Meanwhile, Afghan religious leaders have issued a "fatwa," or Islamic edict, that all civil and military personnel who voluntarily surrender to the mujahidin or give up fighting must be offered protection. They said the three-week-old resistance government was Islamic and it was the religious duty of all Afghans to support and cooperate with its struggle to end communist rule in Afghanistan. The leaders here decreed that even members of the ruling communist party's Parcham and Khalq factions be granted amnesty and not be harmed.

'Pakistani Intelligence' Behind Jalalabad Attack

LD1603104789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, March 15, BAKHTAR—The joint extremist-Pakistani military operations carried out in the Jalalabad city is commanded from Peshawar city, says an armed extremist who was captured by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan in Jalalabad. A member of the Pakistani intellegence service is in the charge of the operations, he confesses.

Kabul Reports Armed Forces Military Sucesses

LD1503174889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Quoting an authoritative source, BAKHTAR's military section reports that units of our heroic Armed Forces which defend the country's national sovereignty and territorial integrity heroically and bravely against foreign intervention in the sacred sanctuary of our independent and proud country, have further fortified their previous positions over the past 24 hours. They have fired at Samar Kheyl, Behsud, Chapliar Khwar, and Daruntah on the enemy frontlines and have caused a heavy loss of life and military damage to the joint Pakistan and Pakistani-backed forces.

Enemy attacks from various directions have also been virtually aborted. The Armed Forces source adds that armed extremists with joint and direct efforts by Pakistani regular units and contingents under the leadership of Pakistan and advisers from some other countries have fired about 5,000 shells from various types of heavy weapons from different directions at the city of Jalalabad and on security posts on the periphery of the city and the residential areas. As a result, 3 brave members of the Armed Forces have been martyred and 13 others have been wounded. As many as 13 civilians including women and children were martyred and 17 others were wounded. Heavy enemy shelling destroyed more than 20 houses and 3 private and state motorvehicles.

Armed Forces units based in Nangarhar bravely responded to the enemy's combat operations. They virtually stopped enemy attacks from Samar Kheyl, Behsud, Chapliar Khwar, and Daruntah and in some parts they were forced to retreat. For instance, as a result of our heroic Armed Forces crushing blows, 560 Pakistani invaders and armed groups connected with them have been killed. The dead included four Americans, a Saudi Arabian citizen and some Wahabi sect commanders called Mahmud and 'Abdul Khaliq. As many as 250 of the enemy were wounded.

As a result of a heroic and brave strike by the Armed Forces, an enemy convoy of 13 vehicles including tanks, armored personnel carriers and vehicles were destroyed and another convoy of 10 combat vehicles loaded with enemy arms and ammunition, which were also carrying warmongering armed people, was also destroyed. Three guns, 4 rocket launchers, 3 BM1 missiles, 2 depots, 4 mortars, 2 recoilless guns, 2 commanding posts and 22 fortified positions were destroyed. A number of armed people were captured with their arms.

Reports say that the crushing blows by the Afghan Armed Forces and heavy loss of enemy life have weakened their morale. A large number of warmongering members of armed groups are no longer willing to fight in the frontlines. They understand the futility of their leaders' war efforts. The Republic of Afghanistan's Armed Forces units and contigents are holding their previous positions and are enjoying high morale and combat readiness.

Arsenal in Paghman Seized

LD1503173389 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] State security ministry personnel today prevented what would have been a tragic mishap in Kabul city. BIA's military section reported that members of the Sayyaf extremist group hid 1 ton of explosives, 30 surface-to-surface missiles, 5 detonators, 20 warheads, 500 meters of 1-second fuse and 20 magnetic bombs, in Paghman district. The intention was to cause explosions in crowded areas of Kabul city and to fire missiles on residential areas. This arsenal was discovered in time by state security personnel and thus they foiled the evil and Satanic plan of criminal extremists who are protected by Pakistan.

11 Killed in Qandahar

LD1503181489 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] A competent source from the Armed Forces reported to the military section of BAKHTAR that in the past 24 hours units and subunits of the Afghan Armed Forces inflicted deadly blows using heavy weapons and pushed back the thievish and subversive attacks by groups protected by U.S. and Pakistani militarists in a number of the country's provinces. They killed a large number of extremists and destroyed or seized weapons and ammunition.

For example, the warmongering extremists, by firing 160 missiles, recoilless guns and mortars on the residential area and security post of Herat city, have once again exposed their ugly features and evil intentions. As a result, 2 of our compatriots were martyred and 11 were wounded. The Afghan Armed Forces retaliated and fired on the concentration centers of these warmongers using artillery, air raids, and tank fire which resulted in seven traitors being killed. One rocket launchers, one machinegun and a quantity of other weapons and ammunition were seized by the security forces.

According to another report the criminal extremists fired heavy weapons on the residential area and security posts of Khowst city, Jaji Meydan, (Pol-e Ghal-e Ghar), Bak, Teri Za'i, Perez, Gorbaz, (Tanay) and Nader Shah Kowt. They injured seven of our innocent compatriots and two houses and three shops were set on fire.

Another report from Qandahar Province says that the units and subunits of the Armed Forces stationed in Qandahar Province carried out a successful operation in the (Matwan Kalay) region and crushed 11 extremists protected by Pakistani militarists. They seized 81 mortars and 4,100 rounds of ammunition for various weapons. They also destroyed two enemy fortifications and one other extremist position.

Another report adds that 270 brave youths of the country enlisted in the Armed Forces voluntarily. They were sent to the military commissariats in the capital and provinces in the past 24 hours. After registering their names they were dispatched to their relevant units and subunits.

'Poisonous Material' Seized in Kabul

LD1603104389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Kabul, March 15, BAKHTAR—Contingents and detachments of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan in their mopping up operations carried out in Qandahar, Herat and Baghlan provinces inflicted heavy blows on the extremists during the past 24 hours, an authorised military representative said here. [passage omitted]

According to another report a quantity of 2,800 litres of poisonous material which was kept in the 5th and 8th precincts, Kabul city was discovered and confiscated by the organ of the Ministry of State Security on Tuesday.

Kabul Reports Wakil's Return From India 15 Mar

LD1603000889 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Afghanistan's Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil returned to Kabul this morning after a friendly working visit to the Republic of India. At Kabul airport he was welcomed by Deputy Foreign Minister Muhammad Faruq Karmand, a number of ministry officials and Shankar Kumar Mathur, the Republic of India's charge d'affairs in Kabul.

According to another report 'Abdul Wakil was seen off at I. Gandhi airport in New Delhi by Indian External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao; (Pesh Chandra), joint secretary to India's External Affairs Ministry; and 'Abdul Samad Azhar, Afghanistan's ambassador in Delhi.

After arriving, the foreign affairs minister held a press conference at Kabul airport, during which he said the following to a BIA correspondent in reply to a question about the results of his visit to the Republic of India: During its stay the Republic of Afghanistan's delegation met separately with His Excellency R. Gandhi, prime minister of India; Narasimha Rao, minister of external affairs; Natwar Singh, minister of state for external affairs; and (S. K. Singh), foreign secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

UN Notified of Pakistani 'Violations' of Accords

Memorandums 307-312

LD1503190389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry's liaison office submitted 6 memorandums, numbers 307-312, concerning Pakistan's open violations of paragraphs 4, 8, 11, and 12, Article 2, Document 1 of the Geneva accords, to the headquarters of the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] in Kabul today.

These memorandums give accurate and detailed information about Pakistan's blatant violation of the Geneva accords. They mention in particular its participation in subversive actions with the extremists, the dispatch of Pakistani militia and commandos to Afghan territory, the existence of military training camps in Pakistan for extremists, the mobilization of extremists by supplying modern weapons including surface-to-surface missiles, as well as other instances of violations of the Geneva accords by this country.

These memorandums from the Afghan Foreign Ministry ask UNGOMAP to seriously investigate the violations recounted in these memorandums in accordance with paragraph 7, Document 4 of the Geneva accords, and to pass on the results of the investigation to the relevant parties.

Memorandums 313-316

LD1503234989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Today notes 313, 314, 315, and 316 of the Afghan Foreign Ministry were handed over to the UNGOMAP in Kabul on the Pakistani military authorities' blatant and irresponsible violations of the Geneva accords.

In addition to providing accurate and authentic information on tens of blatant violations of the Geneva Accords by Pakistan, the attention of UNGOMAP is drawn to the continued dispatch of hundreds of Pakistani paramilitary and commando troops to Nangarhar Province. This is in complete contravention of all international norms and the provisions of the Geneva accords. It is noted that during the past days the Pakistani militia and military have been directly involved in subversive activities, along with extremist groups.

Regret is expressed in note 316 on the failure of the UNGOMAP in establishing permanent posts along the border areas despite repeated requests by the Republic of Afghanistan due to the obstacles created by Pakistan. It is once again requested that the UNGOMAP take urgent action to establish permanent UN posts along the border of the two countries in order to prevent the dispatch of Pakistani militia and soldiers to the Republic of Afghanistan.

Khalis on Recognition of Mujahidin Government

PM1503152089 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 12 Mar 89 p 5

[Interview with Shaykh Muhammad Yunis Khalis, "interior minister in the Afghan mujahidin government", by 'Umar Jastinyah—place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Jastinyah] How do you view the kingdom's recognition of the mujahidin government, and what has been its impact on the Afghan jihad and the Afghan people at home?

[Khalis] Since the Afghan jihad began the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has spared no efforts in supporting and backing the truth. I thank almighty God that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the first Islamic state to recognize the mujahidin government. The brothers in Afghanistan appreciate and are proud of that recognition. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's recognition complemented the great efforts which the kingdom's government has made, and continues to make, in support of the truth and the Muslim jihad in Afghanistan. I stress that it will have an impact on the mujahidin and the Afghan people as a whole and will reflect positively on the jihad. I pray to God that this will be a good prelude to further recognition from the Islamic governments and others.

[Jastinyah] What message would you like to address to the Islamic world through 'UKAZ in light of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's recognition? And which states, after the kingdom, do you expect to announce their recognition of your government?

[Khalis] First, we want the entire world, and especially the Islamic states, to know that this government was chosen through the shura by Afghanistan's influential figures and people as a whole.

Second, I call on the Islamic governments to recognize the Afghan people's government to enable it to assume its international status in support of the Muslim jihad against the occupation.

[Jastinyah] So much for the Islamic states. What about friendly, peace-loving states?

[Khalis] Almighty God says in his glorious book [the Koran]: "God does not forbid you from dealing kindly and justly with those who fight you, neither on account of your faith nor to drive you out of your homes, for God loves those who are just." We do not oppose those who recognize us. And I would like to emphasize to the world's states that Islam is a religion of tolerance and goodness. It observes the right of neighborhood and rejects bloodshed. If the world's states want the region to enjoy stability and security they must speed up their recognition of this government. As for those who are are intransigent, God, who has helped us in our jihad against the occupation, will help us in political action. If any non-Muslim country should recognize the government, it is the United States, which has said since the first day of the Soviet invasion that it will support the mujahidin and the jihad, along with other such promises and pledges. True, it has supported the jihad, but now it refuses to recognize our government. We tell the United States: If Afghanistan flows with blood the region will not enjoy any of the stability or security which the United States in particular is seeking.

The states I expect to announce recognition of our government following the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, are Pakistan, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the Arab Gulf states. [passage omitted]

[Jastinyah] Wars tend to result in shortages of resources and food, and subsequently the loss of security control, as in the situation in Afghanistan, especially now that most Afghan territory has been liberated. In your capacity as interior minister, what are your plans for restoring security to the liberated areas?

[Khalis] There is a comprehensive plan ready for implementation to restore security and stability to all liberated Afghan towns. What remains to be done is to appoint leaders of those areas and for the government to endorse and approve the program in the next few days. As you know, a plan of this kind requires more study, time, and the government's approval.

[Jastinyah] What about Afghanistan's constitution? When will its final stages be approved?

[Khalis] The Islamic law is our constitution which we derive from the Koran, the Sunnah, and jurisprudence. More time and reflection are needed for certain points to be ratified in the constitution.

[Jastinyah] When do you expect Kabul to fall?

[Khalis] To be honest, first, the neighboring states must recognize the mujahidin government. Second, in order to reassure the people and the mujahidin, the government must strengthen its position both politically and militarily, inasmuch as if the government wants Kabul to fall immediately, it must supply field commanders with arms and equipment to enable them to confront the agent government's military capabilities. This, in the knowledge that the situation is good and the siege of the city is proceeding well—but we need more military and political backing. [passage omitted]

[Jastinyah] In a recent press statement Commander 'Abdul Haq, a notable military commander of your party currently in charge of the Kabul siege operation, said that unless political leaders agreed on a unified formula to settle matters with regard to the government, the military commanders could be forced to make a move. What is your opinion? And what will the military commanders' role be if disputes emerge among the mujahidin leaders over power in Afghanistan in the period ahead?

[Khalis] Our brother 'Abdul Haq is above all one of my pupils. He is motivated by zeal and eagerness to engage in political matters in which he has no experience. What he said should not have come from him, because it means the military commanders' disobeying their leaders—which is not good, especially at present. Therefore I apologize on his behalf for what he said. I talked to him about it and told him: Say that we and the leaders will establish an Islamic government in Muslim Afghanistan, God willing. And he complied with that. [passage omitted]

[Jastinyah] Do you believe that the [Iran-based] eight parties' absence weakens the mujahidin government's credibility?

[Khalis] No. It will not at all weaken the government's credibility. In the past we feared that the Russians would support those parties against us, but since our government has been recognized, those fears have been eliminated. I hope God will help the eight parties join us and participate in the government. But let them know that it will not be for their sake or to their credit in particular.

[Jastinyah] How would you describe the reports of a broad-based government including members of the Najibullah government, which has sent the mujahidin a list of people from which to choose the present government's representatives in the broad-based government?

[Khalis] First of all, these are tendentious allegations promoted by the agent regime. The aim is known. They—by which I mean the agent government—will have no representation, even at the military level. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh

Vice Chairman of PRC People's Congress Arrives

BK1403162189 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] The vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and special envoy of China, Ni Zhifu, has arrived in Dhaka today as the head of the 13-member delegation.

Talking to newsmen on his arrival in Dhaka today on a 3-day official visit to Bangladesh, Mr Ni said Bangladesh and China will have closer and more fruitful cooperation in political, economic, trade, cultural, and other fields.

The Chinese delegation was warmly received at the airport by political adviser to the president and deputy prime minister in charge of information Kazi Zafar Ahmed, and Communications Minister Anwar Hussain.

The Chinese special envoy will attend the opening ceremony of the Bangladesh-China friendship bridge over river Buri Ganga in Dhaka tomorrow afternoon.

Ershad Opens 'Friendship Bridge'

BK1503131589 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] The Bangladesh president formally opened the newly constructed Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge over the river Buriganga in the capital today. The president ceremonially unveiled the path of the bridge.

The visiting Chinese special envoy and vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Mr Ni Zhifu, represented his country at the ceremony.

The 1,090-million taka bridge built with Chinese assistance will further improve the road communication of the southern region with the capital.

Speaking on the occasion, President Ershad said this is a day of rejoicing for all as a long-felt demand and dream of the Buriganga bridge has come into reality.

Briefly narrating the purpose of implementation of the bridge, the president said during his talks with China in November 1982 he requested the then Chinese prime minister, Zhao Ziyang, to build in Bangladesh a river bridge as a symbol of cooperation between the two countries, which the Chinese prime minister readily agreed.

Commentary Hails Chinese Aid

BK1603004689 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Mar 89

[News commentary]

[Text] Bangladesh and China are time tested friends. The bilateral friendship was marked with a new dimension following the opening of the Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge over the river Buriganga in Dhaka on Wednesday. While inaugurating the bridge, Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad recalled with gratitude Chinese participation in different economic fields and said the friendship bridge has only added prominence to Dhaka-Beijing amity.

Also present on the occasion of inauguration was vice chairman of the standing committee of the Chinese National People's Congress, Ni Zhifu. Mr Ni Zhifu said the bridge stands out as a symbol of profound friendship between people of China and Bangladesh and an embodiment of friendly cooperation between the two Asian countries.

The friendship bridge, having a length of 847.32 meters with 21 spans will contribute significantly to an expansion of the Bangladesh capital toward the south. A township in Jananiganj may soon be in the offing since communication with Dhaka has been easy and quick by the bridge. Moreover, the longest road bridge so far built in Bangladesh will act as a gateway to the southern zones of the country, particularly to the second port city of Khulna.

China had, in fact, responded immediately to a request of the Bangladesh government for assistance in building the bridge. Built at a cost of taka 1,090 million 14 months ahead of the schedule, it involved both by Bangladeshi and Chinese engineers, technicians and workers in a grand show of unity in quest for development. This showed nations throughout the world could speed up the pace of progress and welfare of common people through friendly cooperation and collaboration. Besides high level engineers, China brought in 149 experts for the task.

In addition to this, the Chinese team employed 250 Bangladeshi workers daily on an average. The bridge bears a testimony of supreme sacrifice by a Chinese technical expert (Wang Ziangchu), who was killed in an accident during the time of construction.

With the completion of the Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge the Chinese leaders are contemplating increasing participation in development of the Bangladesh economy. According to official sources, the Chinese government has decided to construct yet another bridge over the old Brahmaputra River at Sambhuganj in Mymensingh District of Bangladesh. The design of the Sambhuganj Bridge is awaiting final approval.

On arrival in Dhaka yesterday the special envoy of the Chinese Government told newsmen that his country will share several joint venture projects in the field of machinery in this South Asian state. He further disclosed that China is actively considering several other projects of cooperation between the two countries.

Since the Chinese recognition of Bangladesh in early 1970's, the bilateral and international cooperation between Dhaka and Beijing have steadily been expanding with the passage of time. This was strengthened further by the political will and determination of the leaders of the two countries. There have been exchanges of high level visits by Bangladeshi and Chinese leaders and this occasioned great opportunities for exploring avenues of collaborative efforts for mutual development. The people of Bangladesh—110 million to be exact—will remember for long the invaluable assistance China is rendering in flood control projects in the country. China was among the first countries to express deep shock over last year's devastating floods in Bangladesh. President Hussain Mohammad Ershad was received with cordiality by the Chinese leaders in Beijing when he visited the land of Huang He River soon after the great deluge.

China known for its exquisite skill in turning the otherwise turbulent Huang He has offered its expertise in Bangladesh's flood control projects. The Chinese experts visited Bangladesh last year and inspected the flows of major rivers so that they could map out their strategies in productive water management. It is expected Bangladesh will be successful in controlling recurring floods on a lasting basis with precise and productive Chinese knowhow.

Japan To Provide Emergency Flood Assistance

OW1503092989 Tokyo KYODO in English 1044 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Dhaka, March 14 KYODO—Japan will provide Bangladesh with 7.5 billion yen in emergency flood assistance under an exchange of notes signed here Tuesday.

The loan fund will be used to procure wheat, industrial raw materials and essential commodities for both public and private sectors under Dhaka's emergency flood rehabilitation program, the BANGLADESH NEWS AGENCY BSS quoted official sources as saying.

The counterpart fund generated through sale of the goods will be used toward meeting local costs of post-flood rehabilitation projects.

With the signing of the notes Tuesday, total assistance extended by Japan to Bangladesh amounts to 514.77 billion yen, of which 366.5 billion yen is in loans and the rest in grant aid.

Japan, which has become the largest donor of development assistance to Bangladesh, is also the largest contributor in its flood rehabilitation program.

Last year's unprecedented flood in Bangladesh claimed nearly 2000 lives and property losses to the tune of 2 billion dollars, according to government estimates.

India

Gandhi on Siachen Talks, Afghan Issue

BK1603091989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has expressed the hope that there will be progress toward resolving tension in the Siachen area during the forthcoming discussions between the defense secretaries of India and Pakistan.

In an interview with UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA], Mr Gandhi said reports of Pakistani involvement in Afghanistan are very disturbing. He said there can be really no return to peace and normalcy in Afghanistan unless all the concerned parties wholly abide by the letter and spirit of the Geneva accords.

Replying to a query on opposition parties, Mr Gandhi said he believed that the united opposition which bases itself on a commitment to certain principles and policies would be good for the country.

Asked about the rationale behind the budget proposals, the prime minister said the budget reflects our continuing commitment to the removal of unemployment and poverty and maintaining the momentum of growth.

UN Reply on Sending Supplies to Kabul Awaited

BK1503163089 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, informed the Rajya Sabha today that India's viewpoint on Afghanistan is that bloodshed should stop and the Geneva accord be honored by all concerned. A political solution based on existing reality and ensuring the sovereignty, integrity, nonaligned status, and independence of Afghanistan should be arrived at by the Afghans themselves without external interference.

Mr Natwar Singh also told the House that India is awaiting the response of the UN secretary general to its offer to send humanitarian relief supplies to Afghanistan.

Police Detain 189 Tibetan Demonstrators

BK1503124489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1232 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] New Delhi, March 15 (AFP)—Indian police baton-charged and detained nearly 190 Tibetans who stormed police lines outside a refugee camp here Wednesday [15 March], police and witnesses said.

Scores of riot police had cordoned off Majnu Ka Tilla, a Tibetan refugee camp on the banks of the Yamuna River in eastern New Delhi, to prevent refugees from pursuing an indefinite sit-in at foreign embassies.

Police used batons to subdue refugees who attempted to break the cordon and detained them at a police station in the area, witnesses said.

A police spokesman said 189 Tibetans were detained, but could not confirm that they were baton-charged. He said they were expected to be released without charges after a brief spell of detention.

Groups of four Tibetans have been sitting outside more than 100 foreign embassies here since Monday demanding that countries who are members of the United Nations act and stop alleged Chinese atrocities in Tibet. They want the United Nations to persuade Beijing to lift martial law imposed in Tibet on March 7 after three days of anti-Chinese unrest which left 16 people dead by official count.

The Assembly of Tibetan People's Deputies, the parliament-in-exile which has organised the sit-in, said in a statement here that Wednesday's police action had been designed to "suppress Tibetan people's voice."

"We appeal to the Government of India to be more considerate and sympathetic towards the Tibetan cause," the statement added.

Some 10,000 Tibetan refugees live in New Delhi and more than 100,000 across India, where Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama has been living in exile since a failed March 1959 uprising against Chinese rule.

PRC's Tibetan Policy Viewed

BK1403124589 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 10 Mar 89 p 13

[Editorial: "Violence in Lhasa"]

[Text] The officially expressed Indian concern at the latest developments in Tibet, with which this country has "common borders and close cultural ties", is likely to be viewed as qualitatively different from what New Delhi's position has been on the question since Mr Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China last December. There is, however, nothing extraordinary in the Government of India watching closely the events in its neighbourhood. The statement of the official Indian spokesman, that it was "inevitable that concern should be expressed since we have close cultural and religious ties with Tibet", cannot by any way project New Delhi as partisan. New Delhi is apparently taking care not to offend Beijing's sentiments although many in India are feeling concerned at the turn of events in Tibet.

The West in any case is taking a more serious view of the developing situation in Tibet and the imposition of the martial law by China following eruption of violence in Lhasa. It is obvious that Beijing has failed to find an answer to the problems of national integration in the autonomous region of Tibet. This was evident even after the recent death of Panchen Lama. The Tibetans have historically resisted the majority Han domination. The hiatus between them grew manifold during the cultural revolution. Post-cultural revolution policies have also not helped Beijing to win over Tibetans' hearts and minds.

Perhaps to put the lid on the forbidden land again, Beijing has made Tibet out of bounds for foreign nationals. Travel restrictions were relaxed some time ago, but it is noteworthy that with fresh relaxation and the impending anniversary on March 10 of the Tibetan uprising against the Chinese, an outbreak of violence has taken place once again. This is unfortunate, for it is in the Tibetans' interest as much as that of the Hans [Chinese] that the Lamas do not create a situation that forces a reprisal. Even those who find fault with China's record of human rights admit that under Mr Deng's leadership, some attention has been paid to developing the minority areas as part of his drive for modernisation and stability. Maybe Mr Deng and other Chinese leaders have to do more to win over Tibetans. The world would expect China to ensure that the Tibetans do not feel alienated and deprived of human rights. Beijing also needs to have a fresh look at its overall policy towards Tibet. Somewhere along the line things have gone wrong for it in Tibet and it should cause concern to Chinese leaders.

Editorial Urges Diffusion of Rushdie Situation

BK0703154389 Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 Feb 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Rushdie as Red Herring"]

[Text] The loss of three lives on February 13 during the bundh [strike] organised in the Kashmir Valley at the failure of the United States and Britain to ban Mr Salman Rushdie's book, "The Satanic Verses" need not have caused surprise given the volatile atmosphere prevailing there. But the tragic turn of events in Bombay where mob violence and police firing have left more people dead and injured and the danger of communal conflict spreading elsewhere does. It is all the more unfortunate and distressing because what has happened both in the Kashmir Valley and in Bombay was so totally irrelevant and hence unnecessary. That the book is merely a handy weapon which religious fanatics and fire-spewing communalists are using to whip up fratricidal passions is equally evident. Jama Masjid Imam Abdullah Bukhari's endorsement of Ayatollah Khomeyni's fatwa [decree] to kill Mr Rushdie is ominous in many ways. Although the Imam has congratulated the Government on banning the book, he still accuses it of not taking action against those who dishonoured Islam. He and his likes have always shown a penchant for whipping up religious frenzy to shore up their political furtunes.

Religious fanaticism leading to thoughtless frenzy and hypnotising hysteria is always baffling to rational minds. When blind hate triggers individual and indiscriminate killings during communal conflagrations, the line between the innocent and the guilty gets invariably blurred. It is a state of spiritual blackout, moral breakdown, psychic regression that inevitably ensuues. Anti-Rushdie riots in the subcontinent have another dangerous dimension—religious controversy quickly becoming entangled in politics. The demonstration at the American Culture Centre in Islamabad was earlier held by political and religious groups that oppose the Benazir Bhutto Government. In this country also, there are those with vested interests among both the communities who want to keep the Ram Janam Bhoomi-Babri Masjid controversy [Hindu-Muslim conflict over a shrine] alive. After all, communalism is perversion of religion from a faith into an electoral constituency, from a strategy of living into a tactics of politics, and from an end into a means. Forces that seek to thrive on communalisation of politics and politicisation of religion can hardly be expected to let such an opportunity pass.

Tehran, meanwhile, continues to be defiant and intransigent in the face of united Western pressure to withdraw Ayatollah Khomeyni's edict against Mr Rushdie. Imam Khomeyni has found in the Rushdie affair a chance to reassert his claim to leadership of the worldwide Islamic movement as also to revive the faltering "revolutionary" spirit of his own people. Egyptian writer Nagib Mahfuz has accused the Iranian leader of "intellectual terrorism" whose double sentence pronounced on Mr Rushdie is probably first of its kind. Victor Hugo, Flaubert, and D.H. Lawrence may have suffered public opprobrium or exile. Milan Kundra and many other writers may have been forbidden to write and get their works published. But, in Mr Rushdie's case, his book, as sought by Tehran, is to be expunged from world literature for ever and his life is to be forfeited. New Delhi's ban on "The Satanic Verses" has been defended on the ground of the "mischief potential" of the book. This, however, has not deterred elements out to provoke communal conflicts to further their petty political interests. It is time that the progressive, secular and other enlightened sections of society came forward to appeal for sanity and calm which will go a long way in defusing a potentially explosive situation.

Nuclear Fuel Complex Planned in Tamil Nadu

BK1603055189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] A nuclear fuel complex will be set up at (Palayakal) in Tamil Nadu. The complex, to be set up in 1,240 acres area, will initially process 300 tons of fissionable material like plutonium and sponge [as heard]. According to an Atomic Energy [Commission] official, the processing will go up to 600 tons in course of time. The complex will be on the pattern of the Hyderabad nuclear fuel complex.

Promotion of Nuclear Power Plants Emphasized

BK1503111589 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Biman Basu commentary]

[Text] With the first unit of the Narora Atomic Power Station becoming critical on Sunday [12 March], India moved a step closer to the target of generating 10,000 megawatts of nuclear power by the end of the century. The unit, with the generation capacity of 235 megawatts, is the seventh nuclear power reactor in the country and the first of the standardized 235-megawatt pressurized heavy water reactor series to be designed and built in India. After a period of trial run, the first unit at Narora is expected to go into full power generation in a few months. When the Narora site was selected it was known that the plant was to be built on alluvial soil which is not as stable as solid bedrock. So necessary modifications in foundation designs were made, based on expertise available from various agencies.

According to the Department of Atomic Energy, the modified design can cater to all safety requirements envisaged during the life of the plant. The design of the Narora plant was evolved over the years when the international nuclear safety standards were continually undergoing revision. The plant design, therefore, meets all the requirements laid down in the revised safety standards. The plan design incorporates two independent fast-acting shutdown systems, three emergency core cooling systems, and double containment of the reactor building. The cooling water to all the heavy water heat exchangers is maintained in a closed loop so that failures in these do not lead escape of radioactivity in the environment. One of the most important safety features of the Narora plant is the provision of a double containment system which surrounds the reactor core to prevent any accidental leakage of radioactivity. In fact, the Narora unit is the first pressurized heavy water reactor in the world that has been provided with a double containment. Waste management is another area where considerable thought has been given while planning the Narora plant. Its liquid waste management system has been so designed that no radioactive affluence, treated or otherwise, will ever be discharged into the Ganges.

The Narora unit is a part of a series of nuclear stations to be built over the next decade or so to bring up the total nuclear generation capacity to 10,000 megawatts by the turn of the century. As the minister of state for science and technology, Mr K.R. Narayanan, said in Parliament in New Delhi last Monday, India is virtually self-reliant in the field of nuclear power technology. In fact, India is today the only Third World country capable of not only designing, building, and running her own nuclear plants but also can extract, fabricate, and reprocess its own nuclear fuel. The nuclear fuel required for atomic power reactors is manufactured and supplied by Nuclear Fuel Complex, Hyderabad. The present operating capacity of the plant is about 80 tons of fuel per year for pressurized heavy water reactors. The production capability is being expanded to 225 tons by the year 1990-91 to meet the demand of the Narora plant. For meeting the requirement of fuel for future reactors separate facilities are under consideration.

Indian nuclear technologists have designed and built heavy water plants to supply heavy water for the nuclear power plants. Indian scientists have also developed a process for safe storage of radioactive wastes from nuclear plants. The technologies involved in the handling, processing, and treatment of radioactive waste are being constantly updated to keep pace with international developments. Nuclear power has been there for more than 40 years now. Today, there are more than 400 operating reactors in the world. France produces as much as 70 percent of its electricity from the energy of the atom. By contrast, the contribution of nuclear power in India is less than 3 percent. Even if the target of 10,000 megawatt by 2,000 A.D. is achieved, the contribution of nuclear power will go up to only 10 percent of the total. However, considering the fast depleting reserves of fossil fuels such as coal and oil, a large-scale environmental impact of hydel [hydroelectric] projects, nuclear energy offers a timely and safe alternative course of increasing energy availability in our part of the energy-starved world. The Narora plant is a step in that direction.

Iran

IRC, IRGC, Household Guard Meet Khomeyni

LD1503131189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Excerpts] As we informed you earlier in this newscast, Mr Serajeddin Musavi, the official responsible for the safety of the imam's household, together with a group of [Islamic Revolution] Committees [IRC], [Islamic Revolution Guard], Corps [IRGC], and Jamaran-based Basij [mobilization] personnel, met Imam Khomeyni, the commander in chief, this morning at the Jamaran mosque. In that meeting Mr Musavi pointed to the gigantic achievements of the Islamic revolution and the IRC's valuable services in safeguarding the frontiers of Islam and the revolution. He mentioned the construction of 1,000 km of asphalt highway on the border and the establishment of the necessary police stations in various parts of the country as some of the IRC's constructive services over the last 10 years. He once again declared the IRC forces' total readiness to guard the frontiers of Islam and the revolution. At the end of the meeting, the imam of the ummah acknowledged the warm sentiments expressed by the audience. We draw your attention to the details of that meeting:

[Begin Musavi recording] [Passage omitted] Today our nation has chosen the free way of life and martyrdom. Anyone choosing the path of martyrdom, according to your own gracious statement, will never feel captive. For 10 years our nation endured various turbulent currents with great resilience. The problems and issues which existed in Iran probably would have toppled even the most powerful governments. Today our people, after the passage of 10 years, have endured all conspiracies with absolute power and resolve, praise be to God. [passage omitted]

This year, too, the 11th year after the victory of the Islamic revolution, powerful forces have been trained to stand firm and powerful in the face of all propaganda conspiracies. They stand against all those who seek to deliver blows to the Islamic culture. World Muslims have once again attained their Islamic identity, through your guiding message. [passage omitted]

Even if the only achievement of this revolution should be Your Excellency's message [payam], which was soul-inspiring, and Your Excellency's letter to Gorbachev in the Kremlin palace, which will help us spread the voice of Islam to the world, then this could be considered the greatest achievement for a nation which seeks to stick to its Islamic and humanist principles. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Lavasani Protests to Red Cross Over POW Issue

LD1503143989 Tehran IRNA in English 1433 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA—Iran protested to the International Commitee of Red Cross [ICRC] Wednesday on the fate of Iranian soldiers taken captive by Iraq after the U.N. sponsored armistice.

Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani said there was no information on 700 troops, and a number of civilians, taken captive by Iraq after August 20 ceasefire.

"More than six months have gone by and there has not been any news on the captivity of these individuals," he said in a note handed to the ICRC office in Tehran.

He urged the ICRC to take steps for the immediate release of these POWs, who were taken captive in violation of the third Geneva convention.

Lavasani said Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz had pledged the repatriation of these prisoners in the near future during the first round of peace talks in Geneva last August. "It has now been proven that his claim had been a political gesture... "

Commentary Assesses Peace Talks With Iraq

LD1503134689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1102 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] has proposed that the next round of Iran-Iraq talks should be held in mid April. Following the previous talks on ways of implementing Resolution 598 under the auspices of the UN secretary general and with the participation of the Iranian and Iraqi political delegations in New York, the two countries' experts, in addition to the issue on the agenda—which in the opinion of the IRI is a crucial matter in light of the previous record of these talks—have been dutybound to discuss the date of the next round of talks and a suitable venue for the meeting of the two foreign ministers and the UN secretary general. In line with this objective, in order to prevent an unnecessary lengthening of the experts' talks, and to deprive Iraq from seeking further excuses to postpone the talks, our country's foreign minister sent a letter to the UN secretary general in which he expressed the hope that he would take steps to convince the Iraqi regime to cooperate and participate in the talks in the stated period and proposed that the next round of talks should be held in mid April. [passage omitted]

Recently, by raising the POW issue, the Iraqi regime has tried to win public support and divert the talks from the fixed framework. The IRI, in view of its philanthropic reasons, has been always in favor of POW exchanges. Moreover, had it not been for the Iraq's obstructionism during the peace talks, the POW's would have been with their families by now. Raising the POW issue before implementing the preceding articles of the resolution is an attempt to disrupt the priorities of the resolution and undermine it. The IRI, as demonstrated in its gesture of unilaterally releasing the POW's is not in favor prolonging detention. However, it believes that the freedom of the POW's can only be realized within the framework of the resolution.

Khamene'i Interviewed on Current Issues, Politics

PM2202195189 Tehran KEYHAN HAVA'I in Persian 8 Feb 89 pp 8, 15, and p 14 in supplement

["Exclusive" interview with President 'Ali Khamene'i at the Presidential Palace in Tehran—date not given]

[Text] [KEYHAN HAVAI] We would like to thank you for giving KEYHAN HAVAI this opportunity. Our first question is: Why is it that officials usually speak more freely with foreign correspondents, answering all their questions, but become a little reserved when facing local reporters? In this interview can we expect that you will speak openly and comfortably about issues? Can we pose our questions with ease? Can we expect direct answers?

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Yes. As the one being interviewed, I give you permission to ask anything you want. You can be sure that I will answer all your questions with the ease you asked for. Now, about the general issue that you mentioned, when you said we speak more freely with foreign journalists, I do not agree. There are some instances of this but I have not witnessed such a thing in the many interviews I have had over the past years. Perhaps a foreign journalist, using good interview techniques, can probe into corners and elicit more facts than perhaps a local reporter, who may not have those same skills and may not be able to drag as much out of the person being interviewed. Now, this does not mean the official is reluctant to talk. This is the fault of the journalist not the person being interviewed. In any case, please start, and we will hope for a good conversation.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] Some believe that if the Islamic Republic fails to present itself as the model for an Islamic regime, the experience of the Islamic revolution will fail throughout the world. They say that in reality, Iran has become a laboratory of the Islamic revolution. Now, after 10 years, have we been successful in presenting that model? If we have, could you give details of our successes?

[Khamene'i] It is true that failure for the Islamic Republic means failure for Islam and the disappointment of the supporters of the Islamic movement. I must say, however, that the Islamic Republic is completely unique, keeping in mind the extremely difficult circumstances it faced and compared with similar revolutions throughout the world. I also must say that it had many successes in its path toward achieving the goals of the revolution.

The role model that you mentioned—even if the revolution had not presented itself as a clear and defined model—has without a doubt shown some impressive aspects. Perhaps the word "model" is not very accurate. It is better to go back to the phrase that I used: to see if the revolution has come closer to its goals. Has it reached those goals? Has it gone some way toward achieving those goals? My answer to these questions is positive.

Some of the goals of the Islamic revolution in Iran, which have always served as our slogans, have become reality in every sense of the word. I will give some examples which you can study for yourselves.

One was to create a form of management and regime based on Islamic teachings and understanding. The revolution wanted this—something that had not been done in recent centuries—from the beginning. This was and is one of the greatest wishes of Muslims throughout the world and now it is a reality in Iran.

To add some details to this, colonial propaganda since the 19th century always has been aimed at separating religion from daily life. This went as far as the world's accepting politics without religion as a rule. This not only meant that religion was eliminated from the management of society, for politics, but it was also kept out of ordinary life such as judicial affairs, civil issues, and other personal matters. The Islamic Republic, or rather the Islamic revolution, established a government based on Islamic laws. This is a reality today, and no small thing.

This is one of the biggest reasons for the undying support of hundreds of millions of Muslims throughout the world for the Islamic Republic. They see their dreams come true in the Islamic Republic. Today, those who have nothing to gain from the Islamic Republic, who have never been to Iran and who have never met our leaders, put up with a great deal of difficulties because of their support for this revolution. Why do they tolerate this hardship? Because they see that their love and their dreams have come true. This was one of our goals which has been completely realized; that is, we wanted to establish a regime based on Islam, and we did. Now this is not to say that all of Islam's laws are being implemented within the country. This cannot be. However, the regime is Islamic in terms of politics, justice, and other matters.

This was one of the goals announced; it was a slogan that was realized. With every passing day, we progress further on the path to realizing this goal.

Another issue about which the people were enthusiastic, the absence of which had caused suffering among the people for 100 years or more—a natural demand in the hearts and minds of our people—was independence, which was prominent in the revolution's slogans. The meaning of complete independence occurs when a nation feels that its fate is determined by its own people.

If you read the writings and documents dealing with the Pahlavi regime, both Reza Khan and Mohammad Reza, you will see that the 50 years of their rule marked the height of a lack of value in Iranians' decisions about their own fate.

During the period of the Qajars, apart from the powerful period of this dynasty's reign, which continued until the days of Nasereddin Shah, there was some sort of independence, naturally in the form of an autocratic monarchy. From then on, form the end of the Nasereddin Shah era which was a time when much was given to the British and the Russians and the era of Mozafareddin, Mohammad 'Ali Shah, and Ahmad Shah followed by the Pahlavis, the Iranian people never had a chance to become really involved in the affairs of their own country.

True, it was only toward the end of the Pahlavi reign that the issue of giving immunity to military advisers was brought about, when it became a sort of law, but in reality it had always existed. The shah took orders from the Americans, listened, and took note of their demands. Foreigners were always involved in the planning of the budget, purchasing arms, employing important elements in the government and key people. One day it was the British; the next day it was the Russians; next, it was both; and in the end it was the Americans. A nation lived through several decades, experiencing parliamentary regimes, having elections, and so forth, but was always under the influence of the enemy. This resulted in an inferiority complex. Yes, we never ever dreamed that we would be in control of ourselves but this has happened today. No one can deny that. Even our enemies accept this, although they do not like it. For example, they say that we do not understand international diplomatic norms, we are stubborn, and we do not abide by international regulations. Of course, this is all a lie. We do accept international rules. We are not stubborn. We are very smart. We are independent. Today, the superpowers, the United States or the Soviet Union or the other countries that have a good deal of influence throughout the world such as France, Britain, industrialized countries, Japan, and in general West or East, have not the slightest influence over our policies. Is this a small achievement for a nation? Today, even those countries who have paid a high price and thousands of martyrs to run their country in a semi-reovlutionary or revolutionary manner cannot claim that what we claim. Their bosses decide for them. They decide where their forces should go, whether inside or outside, if this regime should stay or go, whether this person should come or go. In our country, these things do not exist. Our regime is completley independent; it depends on the will of the people.

The third issue is that of freedom. Our enemies inside and even more, outside, make a lot of noise about Iran's not having freedom of speech or press. You see, however, that the amount of freedom of speech in this country has never happened before, even in the most free periods of the past—for example, during the time of Mossadeq. Today, the president, the country's number one political figure and in terms of title second only to the imam, gets questioned and criticized by the people, Majlis deputies, political figures, journalists, and reporters like yourself. No one complains about this either. A gentleman goes to the microphone and tells lies about a high-level official and president; he is not afraid that his actions will be punished. Of course, I can complain to the judiciary and say that this person has lied about me, but if as an individual I do not complain, the political machinery of the nation does not complain. They do not complain about reporters, the people out in the street, Majlis deputies, or any official. They do not say: Why did you say this or that about the prime minister or the president? Where in the world do you have that? Only in those countries where they want to have a show of democracy, to say there is democracy in those countries. There is no such thing in the countries with the party or revolutionary regimes.

So there is freedom of idea and speech and action in this country. Perhaps there is some action on the part of some people in some corner, which is wrong and against the freedom of another individual. This is against the law, but we are not talking about exceptions here, rather we are talking in general terms. So, I can claim that we have definitely achieved freedom here.

The fourth point is that our country has managed to take a major step toward realizing social justice and lessening the deep differences between rich and poor. I am not saying we have reached the goal but those fairy-tale rich no longer exist in this country. We are still some way from reaching a desirable stage in social justice and closing the gap between rich and poor. There is no doubt about that, but the movement and action taken so far have been quite considerable.

An article in the Constitution deals with this matter and we have implemented this article in some cases where laws were being passed through the Majlis. Of course, more should have been done and in a more complete way. The issue of social justice, however, is one of those cases where we have made serious progress, although I acknowledge there is need for more effort in order to reach our ideal, something that would be in line with Islam.

In terms of spiritual growth, and in a general way, one can say that realizing national pride is our revolution's most important achievement. One of the goals of our revolution was to safeguard our national identity. Today, thinkers, those involved in industry, progressive elements, scientists, and experts feel proud. In research, in work, in innovations, and other fields, there was always an effort to belittle the Iranian. Our bright people in the past used to leave the country. They had no choice. A lot of help came from outside the country in those days because of the foreigners' political aims. Today, we do not have that help and we do not have those facilities, but those people who wish to think can use their minds, can be inventive.

Let me make my point here. We have come close to the goals of the revolution. We have achieved some and have started moving toward others. I am sure that if we had not had the problems of the past 10 years, mostly the war, we would have come even closer and have been more successful.

[KEYHAN HAVA'I] Apart from the first 1 or 2 years of the revolution, we have not seen any activity from political parties, as a symbol of freedom in society. Keeping this in mind, can we still claim that this society is free?

[Khamene'i] Political parties are not an institution in our country; they do not have a long history in Iran. Now that we have announced the law for political parties, and we have asked groups and parties to come and sign up; some parties have signed up, but not many. Some of those announced by the Interior Ministry are formed from groups of guilds and some are political in structure.

Those which are coming forth to register have been in the country and have been active in the past few years. They have printed publications and distributed them, even illegally. This sounds amazing to anyone hearing or reading this. A regime that had no law specifically dealing with political parties, or not one passed by parliament, had, in effect, political parties and tolerated this. So, if you do not see too many political parties in this country, it is because we do not have such a tradition. Of course, there was rush to form parties at the beginning of the revolution. Many of them wanted power and that is why they started political parties. When they saw they did not have too many customers, they closed shop. I say it very directly: No one closed down a political party, apart from those which engaged in armed struggle against the regime, initiated acts of sabotage, or whose links with foreign intelligence services were obvious. Apart from these—whose activities were stopped—the rest of the parties closed themselves down.

[KEYHAN HAVA'I] What we mean is this: Why during the past few years have not political parties in Iran been active as they are in the West?

[Khamene'i] The reason for this is the West has more experience in democracy than here. It has been only 10 years that we have really wanted freedom in the true sense of the word, in other words, 10 years that the regime has wanted to grant freedom. It is very different in a country that has had 200 years of democracy, where political parties are active. Those countries of course are more established; we need more time.

[KEYHAN HAVA'I] Without a doubt the existence of differences of opinion in a society is healthy. Unfortunately, elements have stirred up this difference to gain power. What measures have been taken to create a healthy climate for the exchange of views and ideas?

[Khamene'i] When you ask what measures have been taken, one thinks something bureaucratic has to be done by the government, for which there has to be rules and regulations. This is not the case at all. I accept the fact that the differences are exaggerated by those who do not have good intentions. I even have bad thoughts about some of the goals in this regard because I feel that some of these actions are guided from outside the country. Foreign propaganda proves this.

From the beginning of the revolution, 1 or 2 years after the revolution, the foreign media started to play up differences between people. Although in some very important cases it did not achieve anything, unfortunately, it was successful in some cases. Outside plots and the inexperience of some of the people involved inside the country helped the propaganda succeed.

What has to be done? I think we have to accept one principle, that is, to condemn all actions that can create differences. We must condemn all actions that turn differences of opinion into friction between people or factions. I am telling you that one can go back and find a starting point in all issues that exist in our country.

There are those in this country who prepare the groundwork for differences by the things they do, say, and write. Our society must condemn these types of actions.

In the past 2 or 3 years, I myself have made an effort to condemn the creation of friction, without mentioning any one group or faction. I feel that if society would accept this as a principle, these differences and problems would cease to exist.

For example, if a person speaking in front of an audience or in a mosque during Friday prayers, says something that is taken as an attack against a person or a group, this should be condemned. The people must regard this in a negative way. If we are able to promote this, we will have done a good thing.

You reporters, I feel, can have a great effect on this issue. You journalists are able to stamp out differences that cause dissent, before you determine whether an individual is right or wrong about a political or economic issue. I think if this sort of action occurs again and again, it will be accepted as a way of thinking in this country.

[KEYHAN HAVA'I] However, it has been noticed that there are those who link themselves to you and, at the same time, have a role in creating differences. This makes it easy to believe that there are differences in the country's top leadership.

[Khamene'i] If I come across this anywhere, I of course will react strongly and challenge it. It is wrong when people think I should reject a line of thought and push its followers away from myself. I will not do that. No one should do that. Differences of opinion with regard to some issues are normal, but thank God there are no conflicts of thought among the country's top leaders. The differences of opinion are perhaps less among our leaders than among leaders of other countries. For example, in France, you see differences between leaders over international issues and they openly insult each other. You will not see that in Iran.

Officials in this country of course must try to keep in touch with all factions in the nation. We are all trying to achieve this as something good. Some factions are monopolistic, but this is because of their narrow- mindedness. If someone does something wrong, using his relationship with me to get away with it, I most definitely will confront him.

[KEYHAN HAVA'I] It seems factional differences are created in this country because differences of thought are not guided in a proper direction. If one could guide differences into a proper channel, for example, two opposing political parties, these factions could use their force in a constructive way.

[Khamene'i] I agree. This is a good statement. Of course, this does not mean that once we create two parties some of the tension will go away. Perhaps there will be two factions formed within each of the parties that will go for each other's throats. To channel these factions into party lines, however, helps organize and legalize ideas and I agree with this principle.

[KEYHAN HAVA'I] How far do you think the creation of political parties will go in resolving some of society's problems? Do you think this will fill the void in positive and creative action in society?

[Khamene'i] If the political parties work well, it is hoped that they will fill this gap. I have experience in the Islamic Republic Party. I feel it is good if a party is formed and the party's officials devote themselves to the party and if the party does good work. It is normal in some parts of the world for some managers to be separate from those who reach high positions through their parties. However, if a party is formed and its managers do not take care of it and if the leaders of the party do not feed it with correct political and ideological principles and ideas, that party will not only be unable to resolve any problems, it will become a problem itself.

[KEYHAN HAVA'I] This country's leadership is made up mostly of culture-oriented people. Yet, the main body of the society's cultural management is made up of weak elements who sometiems have poor relations with the people and who do not show the right sort of response to criticism. What do you think is the reason for this?

[Khamene'i] To say that the trend of management-selection is getting weaker and weaker—as I understand your question—is a statement with which I cannot agree. I could even say it is to a certain extent exactly the opposite. The general trend is that if people change, better and stronger people take their place. If they do not change, they gain more experience.

This applies to the main body of key management, which is what I presume you are talking about. The main body of general management is a different matter. It is not dependent on the culture of the manager, but rather on the culture of the society. Office employees are part of the general public and anything that becomes part of the culture in society will apply to them and anything that does not will not benefit them.

In general, it can be said that the main body of management is getting stronger. Now, if we were to see why those involved with cultural affairs have no culture themselves, I feel that in some of the selections, the details of the jobs involved were not taken into consideration. Along with the requirements of the job, there were other considerations—this goes back to your earlier question—such as various factions and so forth. This is a major fault and a problem. So, instead of considering a person's expertise and dedication in choosing him for a sensitive post, his links to one particular line of thought or faction are also considered. Sometimes this became more important than the conditions mentioned and weakened the other requirements. Perhaps the reason for what you mentioned before is hidden in this factor.

[KEYHAN HAVA'I] The main issue is that the top management did not tolerate criticism from lower-level management during the war. So, it is logical that under the present circumstances more tolerance will be shown by the country's top managers.

[Khamene'i] Let us openly discuss this matter. A manager's disagreement with his deputy or someone who works below him is of two kinds. Sometimes the manager has one opinion and his deputy another, because he is an expert. Without a doubt, this difference of opinion has to be accepted by the top manager. I do not accept the fact that during the war there was no tolerance in this regard.

During the war, even an opposing opinion was tolerated, even with regard to our most sensitive work, which was the war itself. In the war itself, we had cases where a commander believed in one military move and his deputy was dead set against it. In that situation, either the commander was convinced or he was not. In any case, the deputy remained opposed to the move and the commander would issue his orders.

The same thing applies in offices. Under no circumstances must the opinion of the lower-grade expert be ignored by the top management. I claim that sort of thing does not happen in our regime. I repeat that I am talking about the general situation and not the exception to the rule.

I myself have come across ministers who come to me with their deputies and they have different views. One view is that of the ministry and the other of its deputies. That deputy is still the deputy minister of that ministry and there is no reason why he should separate from his minister because of a difference of opinion. I have seen this many times.

In the cabinet, whose sessions I attend sometimes, I occasionally have a certain view and a minister disagrees. The issue is discussed and then the matter is put to a vote. Sometimes my view does not get a vote. This can happen. There has never been a case, however, when a minister has been dismissed because of his expertise.

Another kind of disagreement occurs when the views and policies of a general manager are completely different from those of the person working under him. That manager should not work with that deputy because there will be friction between them. It should not be considered as a case of not listening to opposite views, but rather as undermining management. This means that there is no way that a manager perform his duties with his subordinate. Here, it will be very difficult to achieve cooperate and it is doubtful whether this sort of cooperation is in the interest of society.

Another issue in our country is that managers fire their employees because they do not agree with the manager's views. I cannot say that this happens often. In our society, the person working for the manager usually acccepts and gives into the view of the man above him, because of the latter's senior position. He accepts the manager's policies because he thinks they are better than his own.

[KEYHAN HAVA'I] Yet there is a certain amount of instability in our country's management, which is a result of changing managers. This means that when a minister changes, even the lowest ranking officers change with him, as in the case of the interior minister and governors general and governors.

[Khamene'i] Now, I will ask you a question. In democratic countries, which is what you seem to have in mind, do you think the situation is any different? When a new president comes to power there, does he not change his ministers? What percentage of the old ministers will he keep? Of course, there are provisions in other countries for the lower-grade officers not to change, below the rank of minister. Some countries have a placed deputy minister in every ministry who reamins in order to have continuity.

This also exists in some sectors of our regime. We presently have at the headquarters level, that is, managers of ministries, certain people who have held their posts for many years. The same thing applies in the case of governors general. That was not a good example to use because we have some governors general who have been in their posts for 6 years.

Let us say a minister changes every 4 years when a new president is elected. The governors general then change. Is not 4 years enough for a governor general to serve? There is nothing to indicate that it would be a good idea for this sort of management to continue beyond that period. Experience tells us that perhaps it would be best to change the governors general every 3 or 5 years. In the case of deputy ministers, however, I agree that in every ministry one or more person should remain to ensure continuity.

[KEYHAN HAVA'I] Under the present circumstances when all the ramifications of our economic policy are not quite clear yet, is the issue of loans a means of resolving our problems or is it just a measure to bring us more creature comforts?

[Khamene'i] Whether our policy is collected and compiled or not, I am against loans in every shape or form. I am totally against this system which is common in countries where most of their income comes from foreign loans. The Third World's greatest problem is foreign loans. Foreign loans create many social and political problems. In the past 5 years, Third World countries who have loans must pay some $220 billion in interest alone for the $150 billion that they have borrowed. This is only for the past 5 years: Now you can see the extent of the disaster. This means that every bit of those countries' income must be spent on paying back the interest of their loans, not even the loan itself, just the interest. Some countries, even though they have paid everything up to date through the years, now find that they owe even more than they borrowed in the first place.

This is why there is no way I could be in favor of loans. Loans are one thing; getting foreign cooperation in building the country is something else. I agree with the second principle as long as it guarantees the independence and sovereignty of the country. In other words, if the country's leaders act in a proper manner and take advantage of foreign expertise and foreign investments in a way that would in no way have any bad side-effects, then fine.

[KEYHAN HAVA'I] Are other countries, especially in the West, willing to take part in our reconstruction project, keeping in mind our conditions?

[Khamene'i] Westerners are perhaps still doubtful. They are not sure if we seriously want to use their technical and industrial expertise as well as their financial resources and allow them to participate in reconstruction. Perhaps they have not yet made up their minds. This problem will be solved and they gradually will understand what our policies are, just as other officials from other countries have made some statements in this regard.

We have had no experience in this matter in the last 10 years because during this time the participation of other countries in construction projects in this country was virtually nonexistent. Some countries have had projects inside Iran but they have not stood by their words and promises. For example, we can mention Italy and the steel project at Mobarakeh and Japan in the petrochemical venture. There are other such examples. Because of these negative experiences during the past 10 years, any new chapter must be opened with more caution.

We are in favor of engaging in projects that I have named and other projects of a similar nature, which are to be completed with the help of others, but I am totally against loans—the types that I mentioned before.

[KEYHAN HAVA'I] If foreign loans are not in our interest, which they are not, and if we need time to order to allow other countries to make up their minds about our policies, then we should only rely on domestic resources. Could we meet the demands of the people and ensure economic growth using only domestic resources?

[Khamene'i] Of course, this is hard. We could rely on domestic resources, especially in terms of manpower, but we will not have the timeliness required by the people and perhaps not even the quality which matches our society.

[KEYHAN HAVA'I] In the past few years, our propaganda outside the country has been humiliating. For example, the first incident of hostage-taking was by a pro-Western group and now a French citizen has been killed while taking part in aggression against Iranian territory. The West now is acting in a superior manner. How do you think we can change this trend?

[Khamene'i] Having the upper hand in propaganda depends to a large extent on the kind of equipment at hand. Our propaganda facilities cannot be compared with those in the hands of the West. One cannot say that they are stronger and we weaker. One must know that compared with them, we have nothing. A variety of news agencies, radio stations, vast numbers of broadcast and scientific experts in the art of propaganda as well as the latest equipment all put the initiative in the hands of those who have these things. The other side gets humiliated.

However, this does not mean that we have not talked about our own hostages in Lebanon. The day our young people, some of whom were working as diplomats, were taken hostage by the Phalangists, we told everyone and we mentioned it in the news. The problem is this sort of news is never broadcast because we do not have news coverage. They fill the whole world with their news.

You also must remember that those who create reactions to the news in terms of political issues and political position are all politicians who are strongly against the Islamic revolution. For example, if an item of news is broadcast, it will only have an effect on public opinion. But when the parliament, foreign committee, member of the Foreign Ministry, or a political figure of that country take a position with regard to that news item, this of course turns the news item into a political item.

In order to get out from under this propaganda humiliation we have to increase our capabilities, use better equipment and more experienced people. We have to give it a more scientific look and overcome our shortcomings in this area.

[KEYHAN HAVA'I] Is it not true that hiding the truth or the late announcement of some news items helped this weak propaganda and had a hand in our humiliation?

[Khamene'i] No, this is not very influential. The issue of hiding the news and not publicizing it ahead of time is now a major topic. People are talking about it. In reality, it has been exaggerated. Just imagine that in a military move something happens, which in military terms should not be talked about at all. At the same moment, the enemy reveals this and adds a few lies. Naturally, we could not have broadcast the news in that manner. Say we have a person who is executed in accordance with our laws because of a crime he has committed. This news item is not important enough to broadcast it to the people. The mass media, however, take this as a propaganda ploy and use it as pressure against the Islamic Republic. When this news item has been blown out of proportion, we feel that we must respond.

If we did not say anything about this news item before, it was not because we wanted to hide the killing of this person—the announcement of which will have no effect on anything anyway. We did not mention it because it is not that important. It is not extraordinary if a criminal has been tried and executed because of his crimes.

Several clergymen recently were executed. Their crimes were in no way political. Their crimes were nonpolitical and connected to their own personal wrongdoings. They were tried in a court that was nonpolitical—a special court for the clergy—for the things they had done against the code of clergymen. They were tried and convicted. Of course, if a noncleric had done the same thing, he also would have been punished. These things have a heavier sentence for clerics and because they were clergymen they were involved with that particular court. So, the execution of these clerics is not so important that we must force our mass media to give the news to the whole world at that very instant. Now, when the enemy mentions this as a political incident and makes a great deal of noise, it is normal for the regime to react and announce the news. Those situations in which news has been delayed is usually of this nature.

[KEYHAN HAVA'I] There have been many cases where our compatriots have been treated in the worse possible way in Western countries, which shows the true nature of those countries. Yet our missions abroad have not shown the proper degree of sensitivity with regard to this sort of treatment. Can we ask why?

[Khamene'i] We pay a great deal of attention to our people's dignity, life, possessions, and security. We feel responsible for them. So we will defend all our compatriots living abroad with everything we have. If there have been cases where this has not been done or where there have been shortcomings, this must be compensated for.

[KEYHAN HAVA'I] Following the acceptance of Resolution 598, the West is saying that Iran has forsaken its principles as a revolutionary country—and not in the case of the war alone. How close to reality do you take this statement to be? Can we prove otherwise to the supporters of the revolution throughout the world?

[Khamene'i] Undoubtedly, the West makes prejudiced judgments about us and then makes a statement. We have in no way changed our positions or slogans or revolutionary actions. The main slogans of the revolution remain. We do not expect the Western propaganda machines to come and say things in our favor, or to say things that we want. As a rule, they find something that is not in our interests and then they broadcast it.

Our revolution's position is exactly the way it was before the acceptance of the resolution. The resolution dealt with a military situation and it is normal that military things have certain requirements. One day one military power goes forward, another day it withdraws. One day it ends the war and this has nothing to do with revolutionary positions.

[KEYHAN HAVA'I] Could particpation in international meetings and acceptance of international rules be seen as having lowered or moderated our revolutionary standard?

[Khamene'i] We have never been against international organizations; we have always been in favor of them. We have always cooperated with them. For example, we have taken part many times in the Nonaligned Movement, once at the level of president and once at the level of prime minister. We have always taken part in foreign ministers' conferences and we have taken part in each UN General Assembly, once at the level of president. All these happened before we accepted the UN resolution. We have always respected diplomatic regulations and the revolution has never claimed, nor will it claim, that international laws and regulations have to be broken. We do not accept the West or East as examples. They themselves do not accept one another either, but this does not mean one cannot have relations and it does not mean having quarrels.

We still take the same position. We do not accept and see problems with the social political examples in the world today. Aside from all this, this does not mean that we have to cut off relations with those countries or with those organizations.

Now, the reason you see that before we did not attend the UN Security Council sessions and now we do is that we have now accepted a Security Council resolution. In the past, we always complained to the Council that it did not have fair ideas about the war. It felt it was all right and just. And we were right. We were not against the

Council itself, but the position it was taking. Despite all that, we have now accepted the resolution that this very Council has passed and it is normal that we should continue to follows the resolution. We must keep in contact with the secretary general and the Council to make sure that the resolution is implemented. When we accept the resolution, we have to see that it is carried out.

Therefore, with regard to our relations with the examples and role models presented in the world, we have not changed our minds. We criticized them before, as we do now.

[KEYHAN HAVA'I] After your term of presidency is over, how would you like to serve the country and the revolution?

[Khamene'i] One pursuit involves what I am interested in and what my heart wants and another is my religious and revolutionary duty toward the needs of the people and the regime. They are very different. In my heart, I am attracted to cultural things, Islamic things, the sort of things I was involved with throughout my life, things I like. There is a void where this is concerned. Perhaps some of that void can be filled.

The second point is what needs there might be and what my religious duty may be. I cannot predict that now. When there was an attempt against my life in 1981 by the Hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] I was at death's door and then recovered. It was a miracle; I was not expected to live, but I did get better. At that time, perhaps 10 or 15 days after the incident, I said in an interview, I even mentioned it to the imam, that I should have been killed, but that God had saved me. I felt then that I had a responsibility that I had to accept. There was an empty void that I had to fill. Of course, at that time I did not even think of the presidency at all. That was not in my mind and I could not even make a guess. I then was in circumstances where I felt it was my duty. All the people involved, all the friends who were involved in politics, friends in the party and the people in general convinced me that it was a necessity. I found the answer to my question that there was a need that I have to fulfill and that there was a void that I had to fill. It will be the same after this. I have never thought of a position for myself and I repeat the same thing today.

[KEYHAN HAVA'I] What are the possibilities of getting involved with a party again?

[Khamene'i] That is not part of an official or governmental responsibility. That is something that will happen if the conditions are right.

[KEYHAN HAVA'I] What is your prediction on the next president?

[Khamene'i] Of course, it depends who the people choose. Of course, it is normal that in our regime we would want to go for the best, the most experienced, and the most capable. I think that anyone who looks at the Iranian scene, their eyes will fall upon Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani. I do not think those eyes would see anyone else. Of course, as I said, it is up to the people.

[KEYHAN HAVA'I] Thank you.

Heyrani-Nobari on Relations With Soviet Union

WA1503191589 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 19 Feb 89 p 14

[Text] Next week, Eduard Shevardnadze, foreign minister and special envoy of the Soviet leadership will carry Mikhail Gorbachev's letter for the imam to Tehran. He has requested an appointment to deliver Gorbachev's letter to the imam.

Engineer Naser Heyrani-Nobari, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Soviet Union, during a special discussion with ETTELA'AT's foreign service section, spoke about developments in the leadership organization of that country. He also talked about the effects of these developments on Iranian-Soviet relations and predicted a hopeful future for them.

Mr Heyrani-Nobari referred to the Afghanistan issue in the wake of the withdrawal of the Soviet forces and emphasized their replacement with [words illegible] and independent from political games of the East and West. Referring to the usual efforts hampering the creation of a revolutionary government supported by the Muslim Afghan nation, he warned that the Islamic Republic of Iran, in the event these restrictive efforts continue, will act within the ranks of Afghan mujahidin.

A detailed text of this conversation follows:

[Question] How do you evaluate the Iranian-Soviet relations in their present context?

[Heyrani-Nobari] Despite the existence of numerous crises and fluctuations, Iranian-Soviet relations, in general, have been growing. The question of Afghanistan and the [Iran-Iraq] war issues were the two fundamental problems in relations between the two countries. In view of the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan and the cease-fire of the Iran-Iraq war, one can see that in its present context there are favorable conditions for fundamental improvements in all aspects of relations between the two countries.

[Question] The Security Council and the UN secretary general seek complete implementation of Resolution 598. What is Moscow's view regarding the full implementation of this resolution?

[Heyrani-Nobari] At the present time, I do not believe there are any countries that oppose the full implementation of Resolution 598. Soviet officials, in their contacts with us, have declared overtly and officially, their support for the full implementation of the resolution. Soviet officials in their contacts with us have even declared their support for the secretary general's four-point plan. Iraqis also say that they seek full implementation of Resolution 598. Therefore, the issue is not support or lack of support for Resolution 598 because it is a Security Council-ratified resolution and all countries say that they support its implementation. The problem is that Iraqis, in action as well as in hostile and distorted interpretations, create stumbling blocks in the path towards full implementation of the resolution and make hypocritical attempts to explain their expansionist goals within the framework of the implementation of this resolution.

[Question] It is our people's perception that the Soviet Union, during the war, supported [words unintelligible] at present is the Soviet Union trying to create a parallel relationship with Iran and Iraq? If the answer is negative, then on what principles does Moscow base its relations with Iran and Iraq?

[Heyrani-Nobari] There is no doubt that during the war the Soviets made a grave mistake in supporting the Iraqis. The effects of this are presently seen in the way regional problems are taking shape. For instance, Iraq is forming the Egypt-Jordan-Iraq-North Yemen axis and the assumption that Iraq will finally assume the leadership of this axis is no longer implausibile. In fact, ultimately, Iraq will be a follower of this reactionary axis. Iran has been the key power of the region and on the other hand, is one of Soviet Union's largest neighbors. Lack of serious attention to these special factors regarding Iran could cause greater problems for them in the future. Of course, they have told us that they intend to correct their past weaknesses.

[Question] What was the effect of the imam's message in the Soviet Union?

[Heyrani-Nobari] In my contacts with Soviet officials and circle., in general they put an exceptionally high value on the historic and very important message of the imam. In a meeting of the Political Office of the Soviet Communist Party, this message was studied and analyzed by Soviet theoreticians and leaders. Next week Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister and member of the Politiburo, as the special envoy of the Soviet leader, will bring Mr Gorbachev's letter—dealing with this matter—to Tehran. In order to deliver this letter, he has requested an appointment with the imam.

[Question] How do you evaluate the future position of the Soviet Union regarding the Afghanistan problem?

[Heyrani-Nobari] The Soviets, after the creation of the new government, as a large neighbor of Afghanistan, by cooperating with the government, will try to establish some sort of control and indirect influence on issues of Afghanistan. The Soviets have allocated a special budget for this. Presently, it is overtly being said in the Soviet Union that attacking Afghanistan was Brezhnev's big mistake.

[Question] To what extent have perestroyka and glasnost entered Soviet society and what are the effects on the population?

[Heyrani-Nobari] Openness (glasnost) is noticeable in cultural and artistic matters, the political atmosphere of the country, newspapers and the media. Many things that were censored in the past are now available to the people. However, this openness has not yet reached real and deep dimensions because if in the past, anti-Stalin and anti-Stalinist works were censored it was in accordance with the policies of the Communist Party leadership at that time. Today also, publication of anti-Stalinist works are in line with the policies of the present leadership of the Communist Party. At the present time, in the social sphere, a lessening of discipline and public order is felt. Also, perestroyka is causing new problems in the economic life of the people, such as the creation of too many cooperatives and independent systems in associations, companies, and factories. These are all proof of the new economic atmosphere in the country. However, what is propounded for a Soviet citizen is the comparison of the present lifestyle with the past. It seems that Soviet citizens still do not feel any palpable change and improvement in their economic life. We, as neighbors of the Soviet Union, hope that the Soviet people gradually will see better days in their lifetime.

[Question] To what degree is Soviet foreign policy affected by its internal developments?

[Heyrani-Nobari] Soviet foreign policy, at present and compared with the past, is highly dependent upon internal developments and conditions. Fundamentally, perestroyka is a phenomenon and product of internal conditions in the Soviet Union and it also ina practical way affects foreign policy.

[Question] What has been the standard of conduct in Soviet foreign policy since Gorbachev's rise to power?

[Heyrani-Nobari] The principle mark of Soviet foreign policy after Gorbachev's rise to power has been the emphasis on national interests, and the deemphasizing of ideological values. The present leaders of the Soviet Union are no longer willing to sacrifice the national interest and the people's well-being for an ideological victory in a remote corner of the world. Instead, achieving higher living standards for the Soviet people has become the fundamental principle in determining the present course for Soviet Union's foreign policy. They even try to exploit ideological factors that favor national interest. The present model for Soviet leaders is to disagree with the past model—a poor nation but a strong defender of the world proletariat. In contrast, the present model is gearing everything toward achieving the nation's economic well-being.

[Question] The Soviet Union in its relations with East and West, European security, regional trouble spots, relations with China, etc. has adopted new postures which are different from its traditional positions. What is your analysis based on a general assessment of this subject?

[Heyrani-Nobari] As I said before, all changes in Soviet foreign policy fall within the context of emphasizing national interests. This fact has dramatically changed the overall picture of present Soviet foreign policy, as compared with the traditional past. They will negotiate with all countries based on equilibrium and balance of interests. They have changed the offensive policies of the past to policies of equilibrium and of shared interests. The Soviet Union, because of economic and technological deficiencies compared with the West, is trying to de-escalate its confrontational positions all over the world as much as possible in order to have the opportunity to strengthen its economic cabilities. In other words, the Soviets are declaring an external cease-fire in order to devote themselves to internal matters. With respect to the United States and the West, they always try to deal with them based on parity of interests characterized by disarmament and attempts to de-escalate the arms race. They try to tell Japan and Europe that the Soviet Union no longer constutites a threat to them, thus becoming closer to them. They are not willing to spend so much money as before in Cuba, Nicaragua, Southern Africa, Cambodia, Afghanistan, the Middle East, and elsewhere in order to continue their ideological struggles. Based on this principle, the Soviets seek to de-escalate tensions on the basis of achieving parity of interests with their adversaries all over the world. Of course, in view of the understanding of this obvious weakness by the United States and the West, superpower competition, in practice, has taken new and complicated forms particularly as Americans believe that the expansionist strategies of the Soviet Union are still in place and only its methods have changed.

[Question] How do you see the overall scope of Iranian-Soviet relations in the future?

[Heyrani-Nobari] Considering the de-escalation of the two main problems, meaning the [Iran-Iraq] war and Afghanistan issues, practical grounds for expansion and strengthening of Iranian-Soviet ties on all political, cultural and economic levels have come about. Shevardnadze's visit next week will have an exceptional impact on this process.

[Question] Considering the recent disagreements among the mujahidin, what are your views on Afghanistan's future?

[Heyrani-Nobari] There is no doubt that a government dependent upon Muslim people will soon be formed in Afghanistan. The brave Muslim nation of Afghanistan once more recorded a great lesson in history; that is, they will not tolerate foreigners on their soil. This grand victory is solely due to the heroic resistance of the Muslim Afghan nation. The existence of such thoughts—such as because Americans sent some weapons and money, the United States had a main role in this victory and now the principle share must be given to the United States—is a great treachery against the resistant and revolutionary aspirations of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan. According to some reliable information that has reached us, at present some elements of American infiltration—that have also shown their radical faces—have pledged to the United States that they will prevent independent persons who are not dependent on the the East and West from participating in the future Afghan government. As you can see, while the head and official speaker of the seven-member alliance reach an agreement in Tehran with the head of the eight-member council—and sign a pact of solidarity—special and secret operations of American intelligence services are beginning immediately and suddenly, the sound of the breaking up of the pact of solidarity is heard from Pakistan.

If necessary, in the future we may introduce some of agents of the United States that were infilitrated into the brave Muslim nation of Afghanistan so that they will isolate and expel them from their ranks. Today, absolute solidarity is the most needed requirement. It is clear that when a stranger attacks the house, one will resist with any weapon that is at hand. However, this does not mean that in the future one should deliver the house to the owner of the weapon. Now, the mujahidin and the Muslim nation of Afghanistan must be extremely alert. It is the internal assessment of the U.S. that, in an exceptional way, they have defeated the Soviet Union, their adversary, in Afghanistan without even a single drop of blood from an American nose. They see this as the purest victory for themselves. On the other hand, for the heroic Afghan Muslims, a foreigner is a foreigner. If today they have repelled Soviet forces, yesterday they repelled British forces and, if necessary, tomorrow—with whatever weapon—they will repel the Americans.

Colonial trumpets try to show the present difference as a tribal and Shi'ite-Sunni difference when a solidarity pact has already been signed between the Shi'ites and Sunnis. Therefore, the present difference is between the Sunnis and the revolutionary Shi'ites—not aligned with East and West—and the infiltrated elements. This is where the hand of the United States and the Pentagon can be seen. Based on this principle, I am sure that in the future, revolutionary Sunnis and revolutionary Shi'ites will discover and expel all those who have been treacherous to the Muslim Afghan people in any manner.

[Question] During his Tehran visit next week, will there be a meeting between Shevardnadze and the eight-party mujahidin alliance?

[Heyrani-Nobari] The possibility exists but, in principle, the decision is theirs.

Afghan Muslims Warn Against 'Hegemony'

LD1503210689 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Mashhad, March 15, IRNA—Thousands of Afghan Muslims rallied in the streets of this holy city Wednesday to mark the 10th anniversary of a popular uprising in Herat against the communist regime in Kabul. They read a resolution at the end of the rally, calling on Afghan mujahidin to rid their homeland of the Soviet installed regime.

"The humiliating Soviet withdrawal was a result of the strong Islamic beliefs of the Afghan people," it added.

The marchers cautioned against hegemony by any particular group and underlined the need for the mujahidin to close ranks and maintain their solidarity in order to ensure Afghan solidarity.

The recent formation of an interim government by the Pashto speaking 7-party alliance, at the expensive of other revolutionary forces especially the Iran-based eight-group coalition which controls large tracts of Afghanistan has proved an anti-climax to a decade of heroic struggle.

Bulgarian Officials, Delegation Continue Visit

Balev, Majlis Speaker Confer

LD1503150189 Tehran IRNA in English 1448 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA—The exchange of messages between Imam Khomeyni and Mikhail Gorbachev paved the way for expansion of Iran's ties with the Eastern bloc, the Majlis speaker said Wednesday.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani made the remark in a meeting with head of the foreign committee of Bulgaria's National Assembly, Milko Balev.

Balev said his country was ready to set up a friendship association between Iranian and Bulgarian members of Parliament. He also re-extended an invitation from Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov to Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani to pay an official visit to Sofia. The speaker hoped to visit could take place at an appropriate time. The Bulgarian official arrived here on March 11 at the head of a delegation.

On February 26 Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze personally read extracts from the Kremlin leader's reply to the imam's message sent last January. During the meeting, the first foreign minister granted a private audience, the leader of the Islamic revolution called for the expansion of ties with Moscow.

Khristov Meets With Kalantari

LD1503183789 Tehran IRNA in English 1605 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA—Ways of expanding Tehran-Sofia ties were discussed by visiting Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Trade Khristo Khristov and Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari, here Wednesday.

The Bulgarian minister termed his previous talks with Iranian officials as "fruitful" and was obviously satisfied with the signing of the 5th letter of understanding between the two countries.

Khristov is part of a high-powered delegation to Iran led by Politburo Member and head of the Foreign Committee of Bulgaria's National Assembly Milko Balev.

The delegation is here since March 11 to make arrangements for the sixth session of the joint economic commission to be held in Tehran in June.

Balev Meets With Musavi

LD1503184189 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Mr Milko Balev, member of the Bulgarian State Council, met Prime Minister Musavi this afternoon. In the meeting, Balev spoke of his talks with Iranian officials and described the talks and their results as beneficial. Referring to the changes taking place in socialist countries, including Bulgaria, and also to the freedom of religion in the country he said that the Bulgarian supreme mufti will soon visit the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The member of the Bulgarian State Council also conveyed the invitation of his country's prime minister to Mr Musavi to visit Bulgaria.

Prime Minister Musavi expressed his gratitude for the Bulgarian prime minister's invitation. He referred to the expansion and diversity of mutual ties and said: With the past record of good relations between the two countries, especially during the war, it is natural that we can expect our ties to expand and diversify.

Mr Musavi also described developments currently taking place in socialist countries, especially regarding freedom of religion, as a cause for the improvement of ties among those countries with Islamic countries and added: We follow these developments and their consequences with interest.

Delegation Departs 15 Mar

NC1603072289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] The high-level Bulgarian delegation headed by Mr Milko Balev, Politburo member and head of the foreign committee of the Bulgarian National Assembly, left Tehran last evening, after a 5-day visit and meetings with our country's officials.

Prior to his departure from Tehran, Mr Milko Balev termed the outcome of his meetings with our country's officials as positive. He said: The proper conditions exist for expanding Iranian-Bulgarian relations in the political and economic fields. He expressed hope that Bulgaria will increase its cooperation with Iran in the implementation of developmental projects.

Majlis Deputies Deny Economic Break With UK

NC1503130589 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 9 Mar 89 pp 1, 8, 9

[Text] Tehran—No bill is going to be presented in the Majlis, Iranian Parliament, that would stop trade with Britain, a deputy told the TEHRAN TIMES. He said, "There is no move in the Majlis aimed at blocking trade relations with Great Britain."

The Majlis deputy, who on condition that he should not be identified by name, said, "From the very beginning of the Irano-British controversy, there was nothing in the mind of the Majlis deputies about severance of economic or trade relations with London."

He was commenting on a report of the PRESS ASSOCIATION, the British domestic news agency, which quoting unidentified sources in London said that the representatives in the Iranian Parliament are considering a bill that would stop all trade with Britain.

"No, it's wrong... as far as I know there is nothing in the pipeline like that," another deputy who also spoke on condition of anonymity told the TEHRAN TIMES by telephone.

Iran on Tuesday announced that it was cutting diplomatic ties with Britain over the blasphemous book, "The Satanic Verses" which enraged over one billion Muslims and others who hold that the beliefs of other should be respected even while exercising the rights of freedom of expression. [passage omitted]

ICO Reluctance To Discuss 'Verses' Criticized

LD1503111989 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1628 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Yesterday the 18th ICO foreign ministerial session was inaugurated in Riyadh. The ICO's 45 member countries and the Palestine Liberation Organization have sent their foreign ministers and representatives to this session, in which some 60 political, economic, and cultural topics will be debated. Issues such as the publication of "The Satanic Verses," the Palestinian Muslim's uprising in the occupied territories, and Afghanistan are—in view of their sensitive positions—at the top of the agenda. [passage omitted]

The ICO is comprised of 45 countries which have formed an alignment across the political spectrum, from Iran, which is a revolutionary and Islamic country, to Egypt and Morocco—one of which has signed a peace accord with the enemy of the Muslims, Israel, while the other has been acting as a broker in the negotiations between the Arabs and the Zionists. It is obvious that in view of such diverse opinions among many disunited members, one can never expect the adoption of a unanimous and methodical positione. [passage omitted]

As for the issue of the publication of "The Satanic Verses," it is necessary to point out that following the imam's edict and in line with the world's Muslims who held bloody demonstrations in support of the imam, the majority of the ICO governments banned the import of this book. It was in the wake of this edict that those countries' theologians unanimously condemned the author of this book as an apostate, which, in a way, is a confirmation of the imam's edict on the necessity of Rushdie's death. However, on the official level, some of the members of this organization, due to their strong affiliations with the West and extensive ties with Britain, are in no way willing to comply with the Muslim people's wish and Iran's position. This is also because they believe that such compliance would further strengthen Iran's leadership over the Islamic countries, thus creating future obstacles for them, especially among their citizens. Therefore, they have tried through various means to hinder debate on the publication of "The Satanic Verses" or to diminish its significance. Reasons such as the lack of any mention of this issue on the previous agenda, or that the Palestinian issue merits priority, are all implications of sending a political message, which is that one should not prepare the grounds for the approval of the imam's edict by the Islamic countries, even though it has already been approved by the Muslim people of those countries.

Palestine, Afghanistan, the Philippines, or other similar issues have always been among the issues which have begged the attention of the Islamic countries. However, such issues normally concern Muslims, while the issue of the publication of "The Satanic Verses" concerns both Muslims and Islam itself. Nevertheless, and in the opinion of experts, the ICO session, in view of its disunited members, is now facing a dilemma. If it sanctions Iran's Islamic request and position, it would be damaging the relations of some member countries with the West, as well as confirming the imam's edict and his authority. If it gives it a negative response, it would be confronted with the overt and covert reactions by the citizens of the member countries, as well as the Muslims from the non-Islamic countries, hence further diminishing its political-cultural credibility.

Official Announces Law To Control Price Hikes

LD1503212789 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA—A new law to control prices will soon be implemented to fight overcharging and hoarding, Chief Justice 'Abdol Karim Musavi-Ardabili has announced.

Ayatollah Ardabili told a press conference that the law had been ratified by the High Council of Expediency, which he, along with other senior officials, is a member of.

"With this law the magistrates and revolutionary courts will deal firmly with those who violate trading regulations," he said.

His comments came after Saturday's request by Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani from Imam Khomeyni to personally step in to solve, as he put it, the "serious problems" of inflation and unemployment.

The new law would come into effect in about a month, giving time to the relevant authorites to adjust themselves, the chief justice said.

The press meanwhile has continued to highlight the issue of rising prices which are being felt at this pre-new year shopping period more than any other time. Nowruz, the traditional Iranian new year feast, also the first day of spring, is on Tuesday March 21.

In its editorial Wednesday, the daily ETTELA'AT said the best way to deal with "the ever-growing and unrestrained" prices was not to import more, but to encourage domestic production. "We don't want to be the prophet of doom but it is possible" to do what's necessary to boost production, it said.

But ETTELA'AT, as two other dailies JOMHURI-YE ISLAMI and ABRAR in various degrees, thought the least the government could do was to confront price-hikers with tough punishments—even to hang them if need be.

"At least take a few corrupt businessmen, line them up against the wall alongside merciless drug traffickers and fire the bullet of justice.... Then fewer people would think billionaires have a foot in the administration... these warnings have been on our lips a hundred times. Let's, for once, carry them out."

But the daily RESALAT, which supports greater free market policies said the inflation was the result of too much state control. "Overcharging, hoarding and the black market... are leeches growing in the unhealthy economic swamp created by the centralized state system, sucking the blood of the same poor people which (state) policies are carried out with slogans in their support." [sentence as received]

Pakistan

Talks With India on Wular Dam To Begin in Apr

BK1503161589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Bilateral talks between Pakistan and India on a solution to the Wular Barrage issue will begin by the first week of next month. The federal minister for water and electricity, Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, told newsmen in Lahore today that India has agreed to stop the construction of the barrage and has offered Pakistan for holding talks on bilateral terms and under the Indus Basin Treaty. He said the Pakistani member of the permanent Indus Commission has inspected the Wular Barrage under construction and has said that it is a flagrant violation of the treaty. The minister said at the talks Pakistan will see to it that this barrage comes within the limits of the treaty. Pakistan will not permit India to exploit its water resources. He said if the talks do not prove fruitful, Pakistan will refer this issue to the internationally reputed impartial expert or will try to get this issue solved through arbitration.

Violence in Karachi City Areas Continues

BK1503030989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] According to a press note released by the district magistrate of Karachi East, the law and order situation in the area remained normal yesterday. Curfew restrictions are being relaxed from 0700 to 1000 and again from 1500 to 1800 in Model Colony police station and Saudabad areas today. Curfew will be relaxed from 0700 to 0900 and from 1500 to 1700 in Shah Faisal Colony.

Meanwhile, according to a press note released by the Karachi Central district magistrate, some people riding on two motorcycles fired at a shop in Nazimabad, injuring four persons. Police investigations are on.

Police Fire on Students; Situation 'Tense'

BK1603024089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] According to ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, 19 students and 2 constables were injured, five of them seriously, in a clash between two groups of students in Jamshoro yesterday. Police opened fire in the air and used tear gas to disperse the students. Some miscreants stoned vehicles and set fire to two buses belonging to the Government Transport Service in the town. Three persons have been arrested.

In another incident, an armed man fired shots at Abbas Bhai Park, killing a youth on the spot. The district administration has called in additional police and started massive patrolling. The situation, although under control, is tense.

No Confidence Motion on Punjab Speaker Withdrawn

BK1503164689 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] The deputy leader of the opposition in the Punjab assembly, Sardar Shaukath Hussain Mazari, has announced that the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] parliamentary party has decided to withdraw their no confidence motion against the Punjab assembly speaker, Mian Manzur Ahmad Wattoo. Notice for the motion was given by two members, Mr Salman Bashir and Malik Rashid Khar.

Announcing the decision in the Punjab assembly today, Mr Mazari said the decision has been taken in goodwill and [because of] the protocol which was accorded to the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, by the chief minister, Mr Nawaz Sharif, and the Punjab government during her visit to Lahore yesterday.

Sri Lanka

Security Forces Detain 1,200 Sinhalese 'Militants'

BK1203142289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1410 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] Colombo, March 12 (AFP)—Sri Lankan security forces have launched a massive crackdown on Sinhalese militants and detained more than 1,200 in the last three days, security officials said Sunday.

Officials said the main operations were targeted at militant strongholds in southern Matara District, where troops backed by helicopters, boats and armoured personnel carriers were carrying out cordon and search operations.

Most of the arrests were made in Matara, they said, adding that 30 suspects were detained in northwestern Gampaha and Kurunegala Districts, central Matale District and Ampara District in the east.

Security forces also recovered 10 firearms, including two Chinese-made T-56 automatic rifles. There were no reports of casualties, the officials said.

The ongoing security operation came after members of the anti-government Sinhalese militant group, the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front), failed to respond to repeated calls by President Ranasinghe Premadasa to lay down their arms and join the political mainstream.

Mr. Premadasa reiterated his call Thursday, but warned "let those who disturb the peace understand that the patience of our people in not unlimited."

Officials said 270 of those arrested had been identified as JVP activists and had been sent to an army detention camp at Boosa in southern Galle District.

The Sri Lankan Army also arrested three suspected members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Ampara and handed them over to Indian troops.

India has deployed 45,000 to 50,000 troops in the Tamil-populated north and east under a 1987 peace pact with the Sri Lankan Government which sought to end a bloody separatist campaign by the Tamils.

The LTTE has rejected the accord and has been waging a bloody bush-war against the Indians.

A person claiming to be a member of the JVP has accused the government of killing its members while urging them to join the political mainstream. In a letter to the Sinhala-language weekly "LANKADEEPA" published Sunday, Jayantha Samarathivakara, who identified himself as a JVP member from the North Central Province, said though the government had lifted a state of emergency it still was armed with sweeping powers under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA).

20 Killed in Fresh Wave of 'Extremist' Violence

BK1503144989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, at least 20 people were killed in a fresh wave of extremist violence during the past 48 hours. Military officials in Colombo today said the security forces continued their crackdown on the stronghold of the Sinhalese militants. They said 13 of the killings, including 5 of suspected JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] militants, were reported from the Sinhalese majority areas, while the 7 others from the predominantly Tamil Northeast Province.

Sinhalese 'Militants' Raid Colombo Police Station

BK1603042089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0406 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] Colombo, March 16 (AFP)—Sinhalese militants attacked a police station here and another outside the Sri Lankan capital and escaped with dozens of weapons as troops continued an offensive against them, officials said Thursday.

About 50 men believed to be from the anti-government Sinhalese militant group the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) attacked Kirulapona police station in a busy commercial area of Colombo late Wednesday, the officials said.

"There does not seem to have been any resistance by the police. The attackers overpowered a sentry and walked into the station, emptied the armoury and drove past a nearby army camp unchallenged," a military official said. He said at least six automatic shot guns, 15 rifles and 13 ordinary shot guns had been taken from the police station.

In a simultaneous raid, gunmen attacked Narammala police station in the northwestern district of Kurunegala outside Colombo. Police repulsed the attack, inflicting casualties among the raiders, officials said.

JVP activists carried out similar attacks on three police stations in Colombo last month killing four people and taking dozens of automatic assault rifles.

Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said the attacks came as security forces continued a major crackdown against subversives, a government euphemism for the JVP, in the predominantly Sinhalese North Central, Central and Southern provinces.

Mr Wijeratne who is also junior defence minister, told reporters here late Wednesday that ongoing operations had been successful and "substantial numbers" of suspected subversives had been detained.

He said several troops and rebels had been killed during the operation, but could not give figures. He said however that 26 ruling party supporters, one opposition activist and seven security personnel had died in the past two weeks in subversive-related violence.

Military officials said more than 3,000 suspects had been screened in the past two weeks and some 300 detained.

Mr Wijeratne said the government was still willing to talk with the rebels to bring them into the political mainstream despite the ongoing military operations.

"The president (Ranasinghe Premadasa) is willing to meet the subversives at any time, at any place... but we don't give open invitations and go to sleep," he said.

The JVP is violently opposed to the government and a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace pact under which New Delhi has some 45,000 to 50,000 troops in the island's Tamil-populated north and east. The group has been accused of killing more than 2,300 rivals and security personnel since the peace pact which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign.

Police Go on 'Rampage'

BK1603091289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0848 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Colombo, March 16 (AFP)—Anti-government Sinhalese militants blew up a police patrol in southern Sri Lanka Thursday, killing a sub-inspector and a constable and sparking a rampage by policemen in the area, officials said.

Policemen set fire to at least two houses and damaged several others after suspected activists of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) exploded a mine under a police jeep in Gandara town, a district official said.

"Policemen reacted after they saw their men dying. A senior military official had to intervene and stop the policemen before they could destroy more houses," an official who did not want to be named said.

Residents in the area contacted by telephone said policemen fired indiscriminately and chased away volunteers who tried to put out the flames. It was not immediately clear if there were any casualties.

The JVP attack came hours after suspected activists of the group attacked a police station here and another outside the capital and escaped with dozens of weapons, military officials said. They said about 50 JVP fighters stormed Kirulapona police station in a busy commercial area of Colombo late Wednesday. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Notes 'Successful' Operations

BK1603072989 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0558 GMT 16 Mar 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Excerpts] Colombo, 15 Mar (LANKAPUVATH)—Operations against subversives in the South, North Central and Central Provinces have been successful.

Substantial number of suspects have been detained and they are being screened, Cabinet spokesman, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne said at his weekly news briefing tonight in Colombo.

Those who are found to be innocent will be released and the others will be sent to rehabilitation camps.

Mr. Wijeratne said that during the last two weeks, 26 UNP [United National Party] (?members) have been killed, one SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party] and seven members of the security forces have been killed by subversives.

In answer to a further question, Mr. Wijeratne said the basic thrust of the security operation was to break the back of the subversives.

Asked how long it would take to do so, the minister replied that the operations against the IRA had taken 25 years in England. It depended on the intelligence provided [by] the security forces and that the public must cooperate. It is the public who suffer as a result of all this.

He said the public has given the government a mandate to wipe out subversion and the continued support of the public was required in the intelligence network so that the police and the military who are now dealing in this subject can cooperate and do what is necessary. They must be given the leads. The cooperation of the public was essential for the elimination of subversive activities. "That" Mr. Wijeratne said, "we are getting".

He was now receiving an average of about 20 to 30 letters daily at the Defence Ministry giving names and addresses of people. Some of those writing the letters were bold enough to give their names and signatures, he said. That goes to show the confidence they had in these operations. [passage omitted]

Referring to press reports about the North, Sri Lankan Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne said there were no borders in Sri Lanka, only the sea was a border. There were provincial boundaries and not borders.

In reply to a question, he said he had still not received the official report, but if the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] cadres had kidnapped soldiers or policemen then very strong action will be taken against the EPRLF. We might have to disarm them, the minister said, at tonight's weekly cabinet news briefing in Colombo.

He said he had given a directive to disarm the Muslim Congress. Similarly, he would have to give orders to disarm the EPRLF. "Whoever it may be. If anybody in this country is trying to fool around with our policemen, I will have to deal with them in a most severe manner", said Mr. Wijeratne.

He said certain antiterrorist units would be located in the North Central Province. The government had reports of possible attacks from Tamil terrorists in the north and east and meant to go into those areas.

Seeks Foreign Intelligence Aid

BK1603044089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0426 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Colombo, March 16 (AFP)—Sri Lanka may seek foreign assistance to improve its intelligence services in the face of stepped up subversive violence, Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne has said.

He told reporters late Wednesday that he had asked his intelligence services to identify those responsible for the latest violence in the country and had called for public cooperation to fight rebels.

"I must see how good our intelligence services are. I have given them certain targets. If there are deficiencies, I must find out why and how to correct them.

"If I don't have the wherewithal to correct them locally, I will have to look outside the country," he said without elaborating. He was speaking after the weekly cabinet meeting. [passage omitted]

Sri Lanka sought and received intelligence experts from Israel during the height of Tamil separatist violence in the island's Tamil-majority northern and eastern regions in mid-1985.